

## Omae o Otaku ni Shiteyaru kara, Ore o Riajuu ni Shitekure!

vol.7

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**Novel Updates** 

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## **Chapter 1**

"What ... What a beautiful lady..."

As I recite those lines, I carefully walked on the stage and approached Snow White who was lying down.

The theater is full of spectators. I was desperately trying to suppress the hard pounding of my heart due to my excitement. I know that the cloak on my back flashes every time I take a step.

I stop in front of the coffin and look at the eyes of the actress playing Snow White who has her eyes closed. Like the genuine Snow White, she was wearing a white dress ... ... No, perhaps a more beautiful girl was lying here.

Glossy black hair. Long eyelashes make shadows on clear and transparent skin. This beautiful actress playing Snow White..... when I think I that I have to kiss her now, my heart will explode.

I was playing the role of the prince of "Snow White" in a program of the cultural festival class.

And playing Snow White's role is ... ... none other than my crush, Hasegawa Midori.

"Beautiful Princess Snow White ... please let me comfort you ... with my kiss."

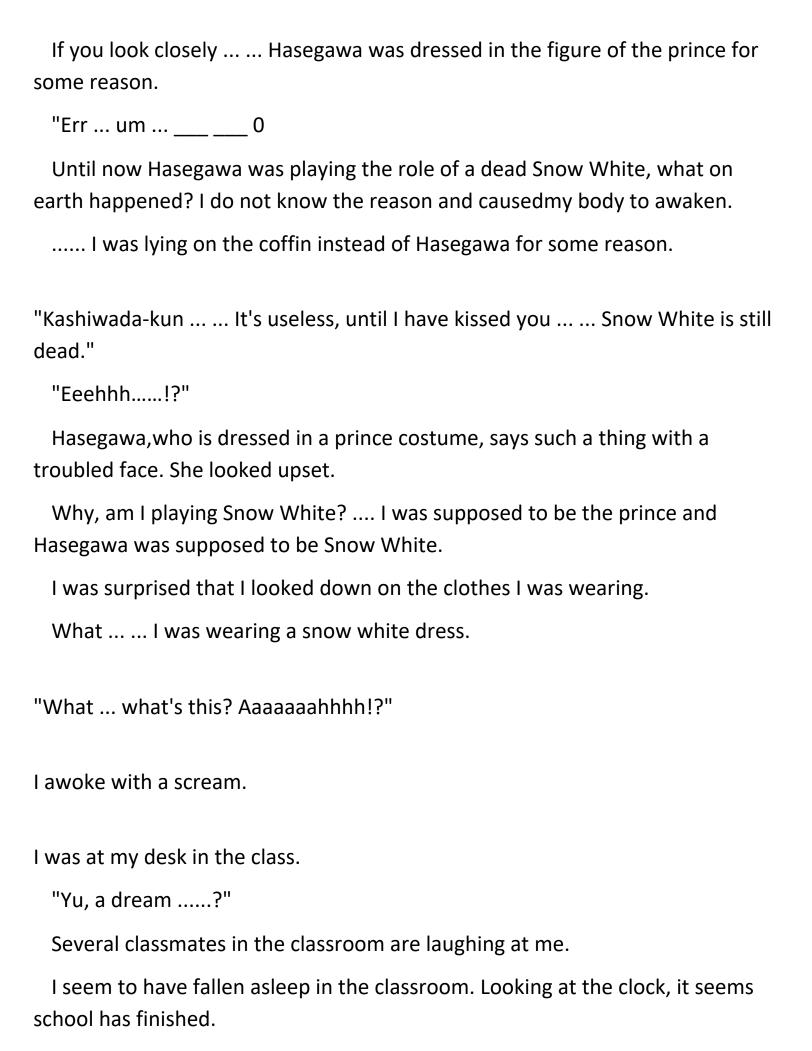
Finishing my dialogue, my tension reaches its climax. I found out that my voice was overwhelmed.

I close my eyes slowly, fold my hips and bend my upper body. The lips of Hasegawa ... little by little, I bring my lips closer. Oh, at last Hasegawa ... ....

".....Hmm?"

Just before touching the lips of Hasegawa ... ... my consciousness ceased.

When I opened my eyes to see what was going on ..... There was the face of Hasegawa in front of my eyes. I open my eyes little by little, as she brings her face closer to mine.



"What's going on .... What kind of intense dream were you having!?"
Kiritani in my was laughing at me like crazy.

It seems that he was amusing himself reading cartoon magazines while watching the way I was suffering while sleeping.

Hmm? What is this ... ... what's in the air? I am feeling a great sense of dread...

That's it! Dreaming about Hasegawa while sleeping in the classroom ...

Screamed while sleeping and messing up ... .... To repeat the same misdeed twice ...... I am certain it has a certain meaning.

However, my dream last time was intense, but there was a sense of reality this time .... Before the cultural festival, dreaming of the cultural festival ... ....

... ... Or rather, today's dream is close to being a dream.

Actually, I in a dilemma of playing the role of Snow White instead of my classmate Koisakimo for our class play "Snow White". Besides that, Hasegawa, my crush, decided to play the role of the prince instead of my classmate Hosokawa who broke down and said he couldn't play the role of the prince.

Even though I'm very nervous to play the leading role, it is better for me to be with Hasegawa.

Of course, the Snow White play has a kissing scene. Of course, I will not actually do it, but I will pretend to give a kiss, like in my current dream .... I just have to bring my face very closely. Just imagining it will likely get a blushing fit in my face.

By the way, Hasegawa volunteered for a role the role of the prince... why did she do such a thing?

Well, no doubt, since I'm Snow White, she is playing the prince ... ....?

..... That's it!

Since it is only one day left to practice, can she play the prince role? I was worried whether I could act neatly, but I am also worried about Hasegawa. Hasegawa must practice acting by remembering her lines in just one day. Can Hasegawa do it?

I look at seat of Hasegawa. But she isn't there.

"Hasegawa ... ... did she go home?"

"It seems like she went to the gymnasium together with the guys in charge of lighting and sound for a final check, since it is the last day today."

By the way, Hasegawa is also responsible for the production of the play. I guess she must also participate in the final check.

"Oh I will go as well!"

I rushed up from my chair and left the classroom quickly.

When I entered the gym, my classmates seemed to have finished their final checks and were walking from the stage towards the exit of the gymnasium.

"Hasegawa!"

I found Hasegawa walking alone in it, I called her out.

Hasegawa stops as she notices me.

"Oh, Kashiwada-kun ... ... What's the matter?"

"Oh no, ah, that ... ...."

I sorted my mind out a little as I came up to Hasegawa on impulse, but I was not thinking why.

"Err ... .... Oh, tomorrow's play ... you suddenly decided play the prince ... will you be OK?"

At my words, Hasegawa made that little smile like in Kyoto.

"Well, thanks to my seeing the practice everyday, I remember all the dialogue, so I think I'll be okay."

"Ehh.....!?"

I was amazed by her remarks.

Certainly, Hasegawa who is in charge of directing, was watching the practice every daybesides listening to the opinions of everyone and giving acting guidance and so on.

However, just by watching practice, she was able to remember the lines and acting perfectly .... She has a dang good memory. Incredible. I do not remember

anything except my own lines.

"Wow, that's amazing ..... Hasegawa is really amazing ....."

In any case, ordinary people who is suddenly asked to play the role of a prince will go out and say that he remembers all the lines and acts perfectly. Hasegawa not only have a good memory;she also has a lot of guts. She did so much to avert this class crisis as the class representative ....

Not only do I love her, I can truly respect her as a human being. Hasegawa is a really amazing person.

"Suddenly the actors have changed and Kashiwada may not be able to do it but ... let's do our best for tomorrow."

Hasegawa smiled thinly towards me.

Even though we are in such a situation, she cares much about me ....

"Yeah! I will do my best! Since Hasegawa worked seriously in the production, I will somehow become a badass!"

Actually I could not think that I could do such a thing but those words came out from me from a desire to reassure Hasegawa. I will try my best.

"... Well ... I'm counting on you, then."

Fufu, Hasegawa laughed. She seems to be not upset at all, even though she will do the acting tomorrow in the production.

Even though Hasegawa can afford to such extent, what will you do with my husband. At best, I have to work hard not to pull the legs of Hasegawa tomorrow. I once felt myself to himself once.

I returned to the classroom with Hasegawa, then we parted as with Hasegawa still has work to do. I left the classroom and went home.

Then, there was Koigasaki in the corridor. She is leaning against the wall and playing with her smartphone. Maybe because her friend, Sasagawa, was still talking to the boys in the classroom, she is waiting for her to finish before going home together.

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"That's good,"
As soon as she saw my face, she suddenly said something to me.
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"... What is ... what?"

Koigasaki approached me and whispered.

"Hasegawa deciding to become the prince ... ...."

"Oh no ... ...!! Not good at all! I am nervous!"

I quickly denied it. Even though I was keeping my voice down so that my conversation with Koigasakiwould not be heard, my big voice got out.

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" .....
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Koigasaki looks at me like I said something stupid. I do not know if she was just trying to make fun of me.

"Because it's a great opportunity! If you make the play a success, you may be able to create something like a bond ... .... If the play went well, you can invite Hasegawa to go around with you in the cultural festival."

"Oh well ... well, that's right."

Suddenly being told decent things, I have a little trouble replying. Surely, if that is the case .... If I do well, I can quickly get close to Hasegawa ... ... perhaps. Then, if I can go with Hasegawa around the cultural festival, it is already the best.

"Tch, it seems you are better off."

"What?"

Koigasaki responded to me with something else.

"The live music performance with Suzuki."

"Oh ... .... Ah, oh ... yeah ...."

Koigasaki was slightly upset.

"What about it....."

I thought she would be more enthusiastic, her response is surprising.

"Even so ... ... I hope everyone will watch my performance with Suzuki ...

Koigasaki has an uneasy expression. It is the day before the show ... ... apparently she seems to be more tense and uneasy than feeling pleasure for performing with him.

"Momo ~! I'm sorry I have kept you waiting!"

Sasagawa came out of the classroom.

"Already, Miki is late! .... Then Kashiwada."

"Oh, ah ... ...."

Koigasaki says goodbye then left with Sasagawa.

By the way, recently, I remember that I did not hear almost anything about Koigasaki's practices with the light music club. That person, tomorrow is the real deal. Will she be okay?

However, I that this cultural festival has given me and Koigasaki great opportunities to get close to the people we love. It would be a big progress for me if I could help make the play a success and if I could go around with Hasegawa in the cultural festival during our free time. I feel nervous about the love scene with Hasegawa ... ... I have to do my best with tomorrow so that I can make great progress with Hasegawa.

"Naoki, tomorrow's cultural festival, I decided to go with Akari."

On that night at home, I was relaxing on a sofa while reading a manga magazine. Okaa-san suddenly said something while preparing dinner in the kitchen.

".....eh!?"

I was surprised at the dialogue of Okaa-san and I suddenly looked at the profile of my sister who is silently playing a game next to me. She was staring at the screen of her PSP with a serious expression.

..... Certainly, I remembered that she said she would come to see my play ...
... She did not say it on a whimbut that she really intended to come ... Watching

her older brother's high school play, isn't it fun?

"Wearing women's clothes ..... Also, don't forget your lines."

Akari said while taking her eyes from the game screen for a moment.

"No, you guys don't have to come...."

"What are you saying? I always wanted to see you in a play?! Hmm, Naoki is not saying anything, but ... is prince actor also a boy?"

For some reason, Akari becomes interested. Does she think the actor playing the prince role is also a boy? Ah ... ... I forgot to mention that the role of the prince will be played by a girl. I didn't tell her since I think that it is not a big deal, but I think that I should tell you that now ... .... When my mobile started ringing.

"Naoki's cell is noisy!"

"Oh ...."

When I answered my cell phone, I was surprised by the name of the caller.

It was ... ... Mr. Yamamoto who is a senior at my work.

Why is Yamamoto calling me? It was the first time I got a call from him, so I am a little curious.

"Hello..."

I press the button and answer the call while going upstairs to my room. Somehow, I don't want Akari or Okaa-san from hearing our conversation. Both Akari and Okaa-san are noisy.

"Oh, Hello Kashiwada? Can you talk now?"

I hear the voice of Mr. Yamamoto from work.

Mr. Yamamoto is my senior who I can say is the only person I can get along at the karaoke shop where I work.

I do not know what his exact age is, perhaps he is in his early twenties. It seems that he has long worked here and it can be said that he is the team leader. He is a refreshing good young man who is loved by everyone at work. I

have a good impression on him as one who gently talks to me while at work.

I thought he was a college student but it turned out recently that he seems to be a part-timer. He seems to be in the middle of job hunting and recently has come to work wearing suits.

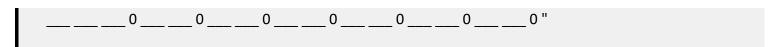
He is such a wonderful person, but this his first time to contact me since we exchanged cell phone contacts. I wonder what happened.

To my question,

"Yes, I am free."

When I answered, Mr. Yamamoto started talking with a sorry voice.

"No, actually ... ... Tomorrow, I've want to swap our shifts, I have something urgent to do



Is that it ...? Tomorrow is Saturday, although I am usually free on Saturdays, that is the day of our high school culture festival. Well, maybe after the cultural festival, I can work in the evening ... ....

"Err, at what time ...?"

"My shift will start from ten o'clock to three o'clock in the afternoon... "

Ten o'clock to three o'clock in the afternoon .... The same time as our play for the cultural festival.

"I'm sorry, I am not available for that time...."

".....I see. You are also busy. It's OK, sorry for asking suddenly. I will try other people. Thank you."

Yamamoto said in a bright way. I really would like to be able to do him a favor, but I can't.

"Naoki, dinner!"

I heard a voice calling me from the lower floor, so I headed down to have dinner.

The next day. We celebrated the first day of the cultural festival.

Our class play begins at 10:30 am so we started preparing for the drama as soon as we finish our morning home room.

My classmates were hurriedly preparing in the gymnasium and in the classroom. In the classroom, the actors who will appear in the play are having their makeup done and changing to costumes.

My costume is being prepared by a classmate (though he probably just bought it at Hote). She is holding the Snow White costume, a wig of with bob-cut hair with a red headband; she is probably the costume manager.

"Kyahaha! You look really funny ~"

Amemiya who is a costume clerk (a girlfriend of Koigasaki who I am weak against) together with two other girls were laughing at the sight of me. Because Amemiya lent me a mirror for the first time, I finally get to see what I look like in my Snow White costume.

".... Ugh ....."

While looking at my reflection, I received great damage. Naturally, it doesn't suit me even for one millimeter, what a bad feeling.

"Gahahaha, it's awesome! It's sooo catastrophic!"

Kiritani and the others are also laughing Ha ha haa. When I noticed, the majority of my classmates laughed at me as they watched my appearance. Well ............ No, well ... It is better to be laughed at than to be hated through ... ... I desperately consoled myself.

"No, it does not matter, I will apply the make-up now –my first time working with a cross dresser..."

Amemiya was laughing with jerky laughter as she takes a makeup tool out of the pouch. By the way, she asked 'Do you want make up?' Don't ask me for permission. I was just asking the girls if I need to have makeup. Excuse my ignorance.

"Oh, that's good, try it!"

Before anything, I decided to wear makeup. There is no way I can go against two flashy girl opponents, especially against Amemiya who I am weak against. I sit on a chair and am surrounded by three girls. At first glance it may be a sight that is a dream of every boy, but if I make a slight mistake a moment, I will definitely be bullied.

"Jeeho, this first ... ...."

Amemiya said as I sit in a chair opposite her looking at her face directly. She seems to be troubled on how to apply my makeup. I am very conscious of cute and pretty face is cute and pretty, so I was stiff at our close distance due to my tension.

..... Then I heard footsteps coming from behind me.

"... ... I will do it"

Turning around to the origin of the voice, Koigasaki was there. She is looking at my stupid face.

"Well, Momo can you help in the make up? It's hard stuff."

Amemiya tilted her head curiously.

"... It's OK! Mizuki, do you think you can use your makeup to improve Kashiwada's looks or something!?"

What ...! What a terrible thing to say! By the way, it seems that Mizuki was the name of Amemiya.

"Well, well, yeah, sure, I thought ..."

She thought!

Koigasaki pushed aside Amemiya, took out her pouch and started making up my face. While getting made up, I gaze into her eyes. I wonder what's in the wind that made this person decide to put on my make up? The scent of Koigasaki's perfume drifts to me, and it gets stronger and stronger.

"..... What a funny sight, being surrounded by girls and serving you. It's been a bit more awkward than usual."

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"... ... Ha!? Who ... ... Huh?"
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I didn't understand anything. Koigasaki fills up my foundation with a violent hand movement on my face while cursing me. She always carefully make up her face, why is it different for me?

"Ka! Hasegawa-san is super cool!"

At that time, I heard the girls' squeal. When I looked at the corner of the classroom where the voices came from, Hasegawa in the form of a prince seemed to have finished changing clothes and has now arrived in the classroom.

Both I and Koigasaki's eyes were nailed to that figure. She has put on a black wig, put on a wide brim hat, a red cloak and a prince-style blue costume with a dagger at the waist.

... ... beautiful .....

I could not believe it.

Beautiful is a word that perfectly fits Hasegawa, even now that she is wearing a manly costume. She looks like a perfect little prince. Like my costume that Amemiya prepared, it fit her perfectly. An authentic beauty will still look perfect regardless of what she is wearing.

The girls are taking pictures of Hasegawa in the prince costume with their mobile cameras. Hasegawa looked a bit embarrassed.

..... In this case, I became concerned about the inner feelings not only of the men but also of the women when facing someone popular.

"You have grown under my nose again, Snow White."

".....eh!?"

Hearing Koigasaki, I saw her watching me with eyes like a shock. She has restarted my make-up with that sullen face. When I tried to talk, I was shouted at, "Do not move your face!" ... ...

"You see, you can do it"

While putting away her makeup tools, Koigasaki told me something inaudible.

"Oh, ... ... is that a mirror?"

I wanted to see what kind of look I have, so I asked Koigasaki.

"What are you going to do after seeing your ugly figure?"

Kugu ... am I that ugly? Koigasaki has a mirror, but she didn't let me see my reflection.

"... at least, try hard not to pull Hasegawa's foot."

"What ... I understand."

"Do you really understand? Because today is a big opportunity, is not it?"

"... Wow!?"

Koigasaki lightly flicked my forehead and went away from me.

..... That guy, did she just encourages me ... why?

"Wow Kashiwada, you looked better before makeup!"

As soon as Kiritani looked at me, he burst out laughing.

"Well!"

I had my makeup but I looked worse than before !? What do you mean? Koigasaki, what did you do? I wondered how ugly I was and I headed to the boys' toilet to look in the mirror. Then, I met Hasegawa on the way.

"Kashiwada-kun ... ... you look wonderful!"

As soon as she saw my face, Hasegawa eyes are shining.

"To make me laugh in today's play ... You will make me laugh when you go up to the stage in that figure! You will definitely make me laugh! I can't deny a slight sense cruelty from me, but I will grab this opportunity as it is! "

Hasegawa said so much! It will not be long before the day comes ... ....

I feel sad when I think that my face has become a source of amusement for my crush but it seems OK to be the comedy relief in the play ... .... If Hasegawa was glad, I thought it is not too bad. At least for that, I would like to thank Koigasaki ... ....

Making Hasegawa laugh, even though it is just in the play, I can afford it quite

enough.

Afterwards, I checked my face in the a male toilet. The color of my face is whitish as it is covered in white makeup, very dark red lips ... this is comedy. This is a terrible makeup that for a girl.

"What....."

I can not believe it. That girl ..... she really did it ...

..... She really followed the appearance of Snow White as written in the play; "skin white as snow, beautiful rosy cheeks, lips red as blood, hair as black as ebony ...."

After a while, it was time for the play to start.

On the stage, the actor playing Snow White's stepmother and the girl acting as the magic mirror was on standby.

Tension is felt by our classmates in the audience as well as the actors who are onstage.

The curtains finally rose.

"Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest one of all?"

The lights were illuminated on the stage, and the student playing the Stepmother recited his lines.

When I looked at the audience seating at the gymnasium, I saw that all the available seats are filled up. The beating inside my chest gets faster and my legs start to tremble.

"Kashiwada-kun"

When I was called and I turn around, there was a Hasegawa with a worried expression.

"Good luck!"

Hasegawa encouraged me with a loud voice. I nodded silently, I am pleased

with Hasegawa's thoughtfulness. I grabbed my fist firmly and turned my eyes to the stage.

"As the moon rose and fell, Snow White grew up to become a lovely maiden. As Snow White grew up, she became more beautiful, and her smile is as bright like the sun in the castle."

Finally my turn came.

The moment the narration finished, I went out to the stage. I knew that my hands and feet were stiff with tension, but I was not worried.

As soon as I showed up on stage, little laughter blew up in the hall.

It was good, I received it ... ... I felt a little relieved. I have no lines, I just skip over the stage with a smile, but I could not skip well due to my nervousness. Perhaps my poor skip may have been invited the laughter.

Even so, the laughter rose up because I went onstage .... It is amazing in some ways. Maybe, is it thanks to the messy makeup that Koigasaki did to me? Did she make such a makeup on purpose so as to make me funny? ... ... am I thinking too much ...?

After that, I continued to be nervous as ever, I was able to perform smoothly without making a big blunder like forgetting my lines.

From the stage, I found my sister Akari and Okaa-san in the audience. Ku ... ... they really came .... I tried not to mind them as much as possible and concentrated on the play.

Eventually the drama came to climax. Snow White (me) ate a poison apple and died. I was laid on a coffin and is surrounded by the seven dwarfs. I have fragments of apple in my mouth to spit out later. For the moment, I pretended to be silent and dead.

... Finally, this scene came ... ....

"What a beautiful lady she is."

A beautiful voice resonates. It is Hasegawa playing the role of the prince.

Hasegawa's voice is a nice voice that flows well ... ....

"Prince, this lady is not breathing anymore."

"Oh, what a shame ....."

The voice of Hasegawa was dignified, and does not seem to be filled with nervousness. Of course, she remembered the words perfectly, pronounced them well with loud voice full of emotion; giving a wonderful performance that belies her being a last minute substitute. It's an amazing stage performance. Really Hasegawa may be a superwoman. Oh, if I can, I wanted to burn the Hasegawa's brave appearance in my brain... .... but I regret that I can't open my eyes because I was playing dead.

"Beautiful Snow White, let me give my kiss to comfort you, at least."

That was Hasegawa's line.

— It's here. Finally it's here.

I heard Hasegawa's footsteps approaching the coffin where I lie.

"Bobobelmonte (talk) !!"

The hand of Hasegawa touched my lashes. Oooh, I did not expect her to touch my face, so I was surprised and my face blushed.

I felt a ticklish feeling in my eyes. I see her long hair hanging and touching my lips. I smell Hasegawa's awesome scent at very close range. I could not bear it and opened my eyes for a moment.

Oh oh oh! Hasegawa is trying to kiss me with her eyes closed ...... Her long eyelashes, clear white skin, beautiful pink lips ...... Hasegawa's beautiful face is right in front of me ... I want to see you ... Naturally it is much more powerful than the dream I had yesterday, my heart seemed to burst out soon. I immediately closed my eyes.

II II

— naturally, Hasegawa's lips did not actually touch my lips.

I thought that I am stupid for expecting even a little <u>Bobobelmonte</u> (<u>talk</u>) 14:47, 21 July 2017 (CEST) only.

After closing my eyes, someone slightly moved my shoulder, like trying to wake me up ......Ya! Next was my acting turn!

"Geeh"

I pretended to cough and spit out the apple pieces I have in my mouth. It is the scene that Snow White spits out the poisoned apple due to the prince's kiss and comes back to life.

"What have I been doing ...?"

In a panic, I raised my body and said my lines and continued acting as it was.

— Ah, it was ridiculous ... ... I was completely engrossed in the kiss scene that I forgot to act. It would be Hasegawa who struck my shoulder. It seems that she sent me a signal wondering why I did not wake up. Oh, thank you very much Hasegawa for sticking out for me ... ... I am pathetic.

Eventually, the play came to a close.

After the closing narration ends, applause went up from the audience.

I finished all my bows and when I went backstage, I got sick and sat down.

"Kashiwada, thanks to you."

Hasegawa who came backstage at the same time, greeted me.

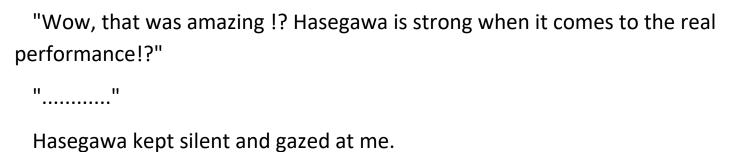
"Hasegawa .... thank you. In the ki ... kiss scene, you sent me a signal by moving my shoulder .... It was a real help."

Hasegawa smiled at my words.

"Hasegawa, I cannot believe that you are just the substitute for the prince role – your performance, speech and acting were perfect! I was surprised!"

Hasegawa thought a little about my words.

"... Although I was a bit nervous just before my turn, wasn't it strange ... ... that when I came onstage, my nervousness was gone ...."



"... It might be because Kashiwada was there."

She said with a slight smile.

".....eh!?"

Because her partner in her role was me ... ...? Is it okay to say that it means that she was not nervous because of me? If so, I am happy.

My classmates came closer to us.

"Both Hasegawa and Kashiwada are great!"

The less familiar classmates also put words of praise, I was honestly happy.

Oh, somehow, I managed to get through to the end without making a big blunder ... .... Hasegawa would be happy to be able to speak with my classmates. I thought what would happen slowly over time, but thanks to the cultural festival ... I guess it's awesome!

My heart was filled with a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment.

..... Well, we still have another performance tomorrow, though.

After we finished tidying up and was preparing to leave the gymnasium, I found Okaa-san in front of me. It seems she was waiting outside the gym to speak to me. Akari is staring at me with sharp eyes for some reason.

"No way, you got the role of Snow White, hey ~ wow cool!"

Okaa-san was laughing at me.

"You truly came to see me ... ... I have to change my clothes now ..."

I am ashamed to be seen by my classmates talking to my family, and spoke in a soft voice while paying attention my surroundings.

"—Haa!?"

All of a sudden, Akari kicked my knee. "What oh... ... why are you shouting suddenly ...?" "... ... No Naoki - Suzuki! This is Insane! The Metamorphosis broke!" "What... ... is that ...!?" "Prince role ... ... I thought he was a man .... he wasn't ...!" When I saw her, Akai has teary eyes. "Oh ... ... Ah. that is ... ...." "... I was looking forward to seeing love scenes between men ... ...." ..... I felt somewhat harsh words from the mouth of Akari, but I decided to ignore them. This ... rotten sister! She was expecting BL at her older brother's high school drama! Shameful! "Well then, and then ...... Kiss ... ... and then ..." "eh!?" While blushing, Akari said something while trembling. Chu ...? What are you talking about? Perhaps, the Kiss Scene ..... It was just pretending! Did it look like we actually kissed if we looked at it from the audience point of view? ".....Ah!" All of a sudden Akari moved her eyes and raised her voice. Following the direction of Akari's eyes, what on earth did you discover?

In spite of me, I also raised my voice. There was Hasegawa still in her prince costume. She was walking out of the gymnasium, but she noticed us and stopped.

Hasegawa bowed to us both before she started walking again.

"The actor playing the prince role is very beautiful!"

"Ah....."

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"Kuuu ...... Gou"
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Okaa-san greatly compliments Hasegawa while Akari is gazing at the back of Hasegawa with red eyes.

"Is it really just acting? I have a bad feeling about that woman and I'm getting excited!"

Akari says ridiculous things and started beating me up.

"Akari let's go, look your brother is busy. Bye Naoki."

Okaa-san forcibly pulled the hand of Akari who was beating me and said goodbye.

As I look at the two leaving the gymnasium, I was saved from an angry Akari for the time being and I felt relieved as I gently caressed my chest. No way, Akari came to see the play expecting a males' kiss scene ... .... While she is my sister, she is a ridiculous person.

At the doorway of the gymnasium, I see familiar figures.

"Oh, Kashiwada ... ...."

Koigasaki and Sakurai were talking.

"I was tired, did I miss anything?"

Koigasaki spoke some unfriendly words to me.

"Nice drama, cheers for good work! It was good" -

Ms. Sakurai also called to me.

"Er ... Sakurai, did you see the play?"

Although she said that she wanted to see the play, she really came ... ....

"Oh, yes....."

Sakurai nodded. But ... what is it? I feel awkward with her smile like that doesn't look like she was happy for some reason.

"Ah, that, that ... ...."

Sakurai opens her mouth feeling somewhat irritated.

"Hmm?"
As I look at her face and ask,
"Nothing!! Well The play was very interesting! The audience seating was also good! The acting of Snow White by Kashiwada was also good"
After waving her hands a little bit, she made a smile again and said such things.
"Well, yeah Thank you"
Despite feeling something unnatural in her attitude, I reply.
"Well, that and the one playing the role of the prince was also very beautiful and good-looking! Momo told me that because no boy wanted to take the role of the prince, a substitute was chosen but I didn't think that the substitute could act that good "
"Eh!? That's great ~! Even when I practice, I get nervous and give a poor performance, but her amazing performance helped on the stage. Even if she was just a substitute "
Sakurai complimented Hasegawa, so I got excited and also praised Hasegawa. ""
In a hurry, I realized. I am hiding the fact that I like Hasegawa so if I do this kind of thing I might be suspected
II II
Sakurai stared at the state of me who suddenly became quiet. She was looking at my eyes with a slightly surprised expression.
" Ah I remembered I have a duty of at class so I will excuse myself! Momo-chan, do your best at the live performance!"
Sakurai said her goodbye then hurriedly left us.

Koigasaki was standing behind Ms. Sakurai ... ... somehow she was watching us with a worried look. She suddenly turned her face towards me and stared at me sharply.

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"What ... What is it!?"
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"... ... Nothing."

Koigasaki answered blandly and returned to the classroom.

..... What on earth was that? Sakurai's acting a little strange, but the attitude of Koigasaki is also incomprehensible ... ....

Then I also got back to the classroom and changed back to my uniform. I washed my face in the toilet to remove my makeup. There were no classes so students can come and go freely from their classrooms to change their clothes removal.

I finished the play which is the project of my class, and because I was not part of any club, I am completely free.

Of course I wanted to invite the Hasegawa and go around the cultural festival with her... I thought.

However, when I went back to the classroom from the toilet, there was no Hasegawa there. I wished I had invited her to "Let's go around the cultural festival together" before I lost sight of her .... Of course, I don't know the activities of Hasegawa for the cultural festival. Hasegawa is not in any club, but she may have work as our class rep ... maybe she promised to go around the cultural festival with other people.

I tried looking lightly around the classroom, but I could not find Hasegawa. I would like to try contacting her on mobile, but ... honestly, I don't have the courage to do that. If I interrupt her when she is busy with other things, I might become a man who can't read the atmosphere.

Usually, you go with your close friends around the cultural festival, but Suzuki seems to be the only person I can call close. However, he is busy with his club activities, as well as Kiritani, my classmate.

I decided to keep looking for Hasegawa casually while casually going around the cultural festival alone. It is most important to go around the cultural festival with someone ... ....

I wandered around the school aimlessly and because I don't want to return to my classroom, I went out to the school yard and bought yakisoba at a shop, sat on a flowerbed in a corner of the schoolyard and ate quietly. I would be very embarrassed if someone saw me alone in class, so I kept aware of my surroundings all the time.

While many students are enjoying the cultural festival with their friends and lovers, I was on the verge of tears for being alone. I may have been crying without shedding tears.

Haaaaa.... When I finished the play a while ago, I was able to make my crush happy and the play a success; the culture festival seems nice! I was pretty much charged up! I was thinking ...? What is this like. No, this is my real figure ... .... I happened to play the leading role, and I was in a happy state of mind, being floated by the mood of the cultural festival. Now, I am far from being in my childhood going to festivals I like; now I have no one to hang around with, no one to look around together; alone, alone ... ... Haaaaa. Last month, I remember then that I went out with Hasegawa and attended a fireworks festival. I really enjoyed that time ... .... Now it seems like that event was just a dream.

After a long depression, I looked at the clock in the school building and remembered something.

Late in the afternoon, on the live stage of Mihonbuki is where Koigasaki and Suzuki will perform. It is a little before the start time.

No matter how much I am depressed, I must see let them see my brave face. I got up with heavy feet and turned to the gymnasium where the live music performance will be held.

"Ah....."

"Oh, Kashiwada-kun!"

In the corridor on the way to the gymnasium, I encountered an unexpected person.

Sakurai was there. When she came to see our play a while ago, she was in uniform but now she is dressed in a Minisuka policeman costume.

"You look awesome!?"

From the blue tight mini skirt that seems to be able to understand the line of the buttocks, beautiful white feet are slurry and stretched.

Because Sakurai has a good figure, no matter what costume, it will suit her .... If you were the police, I won't mind being carried to jail anytime.

"Akuto ... ... My class is doing a jail café."

Sakurai explains with a little shy smile. A cute shy smile.

"Prison cafe?"

"Men are the prisoners, the girls are the Minisuka police, and afterwards, the menu items are named like prison food ..."

"Oh, that sounds interesting!?"

"I was on duty until a while ago, I did not have time to change, so I came like this!"

By the way, you are like saying you don't have class duty from now on.

"Is your duty done already?"

"Yes, I have already finished my duties and since I have no club activities, I am free. Did Kashiwada change the Snow White costume?"

That's right, I heard about it that once in a while, Sakurai skipped out the school.

"Oh yeah, if I go out with such a dress, it's embarrassing ... ..."

"Well, that's not true! I guess it would be more fun if you left it on?"

Sakurai says with a laugh to make fun of me.

11 .....11

Then suddenly she has a serious look and looked at my face as though she decided on something.

"...... Ah, there ... .... There was something I am curious about ..... I was

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about to ask it earlier but ... can I ask it now? "
  "Well ok."
 What was she interested in? Why was she hesitant to ask about it a while
ago?
 She took a deep breath and asked.
"The Ki... Ki... Kiss Scene ..... Did you ... .... did you really ...?!"
"What!"
 I was surprised at the question and raised my voice.
 I was embarrassed and I immediately replied.
  "No, no ... we really did not do it! Of course we didn't!"
 I hurriedly told the truth. Did it really look like we kissed from the audience
point of view?
  "Haaaaaaaah....."
 Sakurai made a relieved sound.
 "...... Ah, that I was ... ... Ha ha ... ... That's right ... .... What was I thinking ..."
 She has a smiling face and was blushing as well.
  What's with this reaction?
  ..... Was she wondering whether I really kissed Hasegawa ...?
  "Haaaaaaaaaaaaaa, Momo-chan's performance will be starting already!"
 Sakurai shouted when she saw my watch.
  "Oh, yeah!"
  I completely forgot. I was heading to the gym in order to see the performance
of Koigasaki and Suzuki ....
  "Ah, Sakurai also came to see the live performance of Koigasaki?"
```

"Yeah! Kashiwada-kun let's go together!"

We headed to the gym running.

... ... While we were going , I could not help but wonder about her question and her reaction to my answer.

When we entered the gymnasium, the concert has already begun.

Onstage was Suzuki singing while playing the guitar. Suzuki 's singing voice was echoing throughout the gym. Well, Koigasaki only will sing the last song, the first two songs will be performed by the members of the light music club with Suzuki singing lead ... ... that's what Suzuki told me in advance.

Suzuki was singing a cover song of a popular Japanese band that was featured in a recent movie or something. Because Suzuki loves Jpop, it probably a song that other members also like.

"That vocalist is Kashiwada's friend ... was not it? Was he in the cosplay ...."

Sakurai who is watching next to me asked.

"Oh, yeah."

By the way, Sakurai knew that I and Suzuki did a cosplay of the anime "Psychicals". I also remember well.

"Suzuki - kun!"

I noticed some girls having a studded yellow cheek like Suzuki. ..... and I noticed that 80% of the audience were girls. Most of them are Suzuki's fans ....

But ... I can understand the girls' feelings. Suzuki is handsome ... his songs and guitar skills are very high, compared to the skills of the other band members; the difference was so clear as I could understand see even if I am just an amateur. Listening to his performance makes me think what a great guy he is. Although I am perplexed in the difference from the cocky lolicon guy that I usually encounter.

".... Kashiwada, you seem to be a little entranced ... Maybe you just fell in love with your friend because of his good looks ...?!"

"..... Ha ha! What are you talking about ...?!"

Suddenly Sakurai shakes me for something weird.

"Ha ha ... ... it just looked to me like Kashiwada's face suddenly changed like that ... ... Sorry!"

Sakurai hurriedly apologized but she looked like she was excited as her face was colored red.

No, I certainly thought that Suzuki is not good for me ....

Ms. Sakurai's misunderstanding is embarrassing ... ... Did we just inspire a BL delusion? In retrospect, it seems that there have been several events where we seemed to be like that .... Sakurai - san is a rotten girl for 3D people ...?

Because I was thinking with a complex expression, Sakurai became uneasy and apologized again.

"Ah ... ... Sorry, I am sorry ... my imagination ran away ... ... Kashiwada is awkward to be made a side dish of a girl girl ... ...."

Side dish!? What do you say suddenly?... what a dangerous eruption ....

"I know but there is no way I can't be excited for being obsessed with that kind of situation ... Wow, I'm really sorry ..."

Sakurai added that she felt depressed.

However, I can appreciate someone who loves to indulge in her imagination, even if it is a BL involving me ... .... Well I guess I also have a feeling of Hyakka Moe and I think that each other may be pretty if the girls caught each other casually. ..... even if her BL imagination is disagreeable, a guy should be able to accept it if he is physiologically strong. I believe that Suzuki will also not mind ... .... No, there is no deep meaning for that.

"Oh no, I do not feel unpleasant. Well I'm not a homosexual but ... if you just want to be delusional, I do not mind ...you can freely enjoy yourself ..."

I'm talking honestly. I don't want to Sakurai, who keeps apologizing with an uneasy expression, to think that I think poorly of her.

"Well, you what!? Do you officially recognize my hobby!?"

Sakurai seemed to be amazed at my words, she gazed at me with the

brightest eyes ever. I was surprised at this reaction.

"Thank you very much ... Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, Kashiwada-kun ...
... It's really nice .....! I am impressed ... ... Ha, ha ..... ideal for girls He is ... ...
then I thankfully will continue to make you a delicious side dish ...!

Sakurai holds her mouth while blushing. Eyes are violent, it may be the first time to see her being so excited.

"Oh, yes, yes ... ...."

I was told by a girl, "You are going to be a side dish" and I accepted it ....

"... Ah... ... Kashiwada's friend ... ... Suzuki-kun is he ... is he Momo-chan's crush ...?."

Sakurai turned around and asked with a calm tone.

"Did you hear that from Koigasaki?"

While I was surprised a little by Ms. Sakurai, I asked. "Yes, Momo-chan ... ... told me that Kashiwada and she have an agreement on help each other's love affair ... "

On the day when I joined the club event on coterie event, Koigasaki certainly said "I will tell you everything, Azuki-chan ..." Oh, really, she told Sakurai everything.

"I have misunderstood things until now ... ... It is really embarrassing ... ...."

Sakurai says, with a bitter smile on his face.

Certainly, until now she seems to have a weird misunderstanding about the relationship between me and Koigasaki .... I solved the big misunderstanding and it was really good.

Eventually the first song finished.

"Thank you very much ~"

As soon as Suzuki thanked the audience, the screams of girls' went louder.

Ooooo, there are more Suzuki fans than I expected ... ... Of course, the majority of girls in this gym are Suzuki 's fans ....

"Well then, the next song is one I composed."

Suzuki's words bring cheers and applause. Huh.....? Suzuki composed a song ...? He was able to do such sophisticated things ..... Never mind what kind of song it is.

"Here it is ......"Unrequited forever""

As soon as Suzuki told the a song title, the performance starts.

"Unrequited Forever" ...? Reading the title, it's a love song, is not it ...? Suzuki wrote a love song? I do not know the reason. It seems like love is the last thing on his mind ... ....

Soon after Suzuki's song began, I sharpen my ears and listened to the lyrics.

"How long have you been falling in love with you?

I know that this feeling will not arrive in the future

Your innocent smile I really want to own it

There are no other people who can love you more than I.

No matter how I feel I can't even touch you

Unrequited love will not pay off This love is too spicy

Nevertheless I was glad that I met you

Today I think that I am happy to be liked. "

......

A catchy melody. Bad lyrics. I thought it was a good song, even if I had to choose a favorite song that my friend made.

Surely, if one does not know Suzuki well, he will believe that it is a genuine orthodox love song.

But I understand.

This is ... ... probably not a simple love song.

That guy ..... It's probably a love song "I made for my favorite 2D character".

"This feeling will not arrive in the future" "I can't even touch you even though I thought of it", "love not to be repaid" ... While listening to such lyrics, I got hung up. I am the same otaku and probably not a few other Otakus will feel such emotions for their favorite 2D characters ... I think I was able to notice.

Surely all the girl who screaming in the audience is not aware of this, I guess they think that it is a pure love song.

"..... That song is not ... No, it's impossible to say that ... Well, but, like lyrics, how to think ... ...!"

Sakurai told such a thing, so Sakurai also realized the real meaning this song ... ....!?, I thought for a moment but seems to be quite different as she sees. I'm getting excited for some reason and I'm glancing at her.

............ No, it's infinitely a misplaced BL paranoid thing that she is thinking ... ..... What is being delusional is not clear to see inside her brain, I wonder how far is her delusional abilities ... ....

Eventually the second song is over, cheers and applause rose in the hall.

"Thank you very much ...... Then the next song will be the last song"

Suzuki's word "the last song" raised the complaints of the spectator girls student "What?"? Suzuki goes into explaining the next song.

"The next song is a cover of a popular song by Vocaloid "Rikyu Konbo", the song "I am your princess". This song is pretty cute song, but since I cannot sing it well, I have a special guest to sing it ... So please. "

When Suzuki calls towards the backstage, Koigasaki, wearing a costume, came out with a nervous look.

"Momo —つ!"

Girls who are friends of Koigasaki cheer for her from the audience seats.

"Oh well, well ..... Momo-chan!"

Next to me, Sakurai gave a spirit and sent a kiss to Koigasaki. I am heartbroken .... so I can't do that.

"Koigasaki——!"

The boys (20% of the audience) also shout out the name of Koigasaki with a bold voice. Are they also fans of Koigasaki ...?

Koigasaki is wearing a white dress and has a big hair ornament, her hair and makeup were more intense than usual. She came on the same stage with Suzuki, fully armed and decorated ... ....

"Momo-chan, she's so beautiful ..."

Sakurai was enchanted with the appearance of such love girls.

"First year Class A Koigasaki-san is not a light music club member but she can really sing!"

"Wait ... ... I will sing so hard, so, thank you!"

Wow .... I'm getting nervous. With that build-up introduction ... .... Can you sing properly? I'm getting worried.

After Suzuki's intro, the performance starts. Koigasaki clasped the microphone tightly with both hands, and concentrated her eyes closed.

Eventually the song began.

... .....

It seems that my worries were completely unnecessary.

Koigasaki's singing was wonderful! She is singing much better that she was during karaoke.

"..... Momo-chan .... wow, she's amazing ... ...."

Suddenly, Sakurai looked up at the stage with a feeling and looked right at her.

"I finally realized that you are my prince.

I want to be your only princess. "

I could hear the lyrics of the song clearly. Koigasaki will be singing this song ...... while thinking of Suzuki. That's why she is singing with all her might, I thought.

After finishing the first stanzas, during the interlude, Koigasaki separated the mike from her mouth and looked at Suzuki. And ... Suzuki was also looking at Koigasaki while playing the guitar, and then he smiled at Koigasaki. Koigasaki also laughed shyly so as a response to it.

It was a momentary event, but I did not miss it.

...... Whatever, Koigasaki ... ... How do I say it ... she and Suzuki are going well ...?

Koigasaki ... ... while practicing with the club for the cultural festival, the distance between her and Suzuki surely shrunk without me knowing.

It was good, Koigasaki ... .... Really really good ...

But why is it .... This bit of a feeling that something got stuck in my heart ... ....

Eventually, after the third song was finished, the live music of the Mihonbu part ended successfully, as appreciated by the audience.

"Momo-chan's song, it was awesome ~!"

Sakurai praised Koigasaki's performance with a full smile.

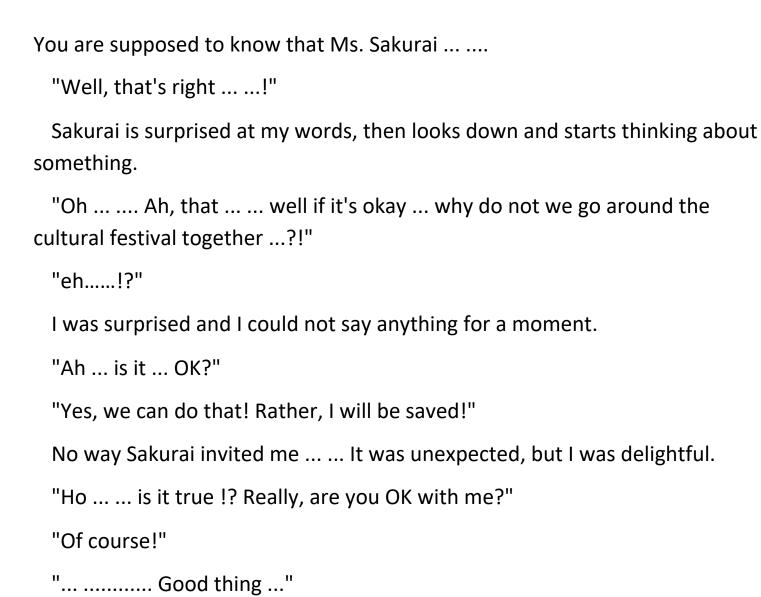
"Oh, yes ... That's right."

I tried desperately to make Sakurai not notice that I am upset.

"Oh, that ... ... Kashiwada, what are you going to do after this?"

"Well? After this? Since I finished my classes, I am free. I will be hanging around alone ....."

While saying, I was truly embarrassed with myself. I do not have any friends.



As soon as she heard my words, Sakurai has a soft smile.

In this way, I decided to go around the cultural festival with Ms. Sakurai. I was thankful that I thought missed the lonely feeling of having to go around the cultural festival alone.

## **Chapter 2**

I also thought that I would like to congratulate Koigasaki and Suzuki after finishing their performance but both are surrounded by their fans and I couldn't get through. I will just tell them my impressions later. Sakurai and I left the gym.

"Well then, where shall we go, Kashiwada?"

"Ohh ... I guess .... I just ate a little yakisoba before so I'd like to do something else .... Anyway, if Sakurai would like to eat something ..."

"Oh, I also ate lunch at during my spare time, so I'm okay!"

"Oh, is there somewhere where Sakurai wants to go?"

"Well, I want to go to this "haunted house" and "running away"..."

Sakurai opened a brochure and showed it to me.

"Well then, we can go to the nearest place first while walking."

"Yes, That's right!"

The haunted house was nearer so we decided to head there first.

On the way to the exhibition, there were exhibitions of art department and volunteer's flea market, etc.. I was a little worried when we entered the haunted house.

Haunted house.... When I went with Hasegawa at the other festival last month, I went through a lot of trouble ... Although Hasegawa was calm, I was scared and made a big mistake in escaping. This time, I must make sure not to repeat the same mistake.

"Welcome, come and join us!"

The reception student told us to enter the classroom which was remodeled as a haunted house.

The inside of the classroom was dark, and fear came up immediately.

Until then, I didn't know I was scared of ghosts but it turned out I was totally scared at the haunted house of the festival I went with Hasegawa before.

No ... ... Because it is an event that the students in the same school are doing, I can tell myself to myself that I should not be scared as much .... By the way, Sakurai wanted to come to the haunted house, is she that kind of people who enjoys thing like this?

"Kyaaaaaaaa 14:51, 21 July 2017 (CEST)14:51, 21 July 2017 (CEST)<u>Bobobelmonte</u> (talk) !!"

"What?"

Sakurai screamed.

"Where are you, what's wrong ...?"

"What ...something ... ... caught my ankle ..."

Sakurai says while looking at her feet, and certainly there is a human hand that came out from under the dark, and he caught Sakurai's ankle. The hand immediately took off and retracted into the dark curtain.

"Ha, ha ... ... I was scared ..."

"Are you OK? Sakurai-san ... Maybe it is not good for such a thing?"

"Yes! I am not good at ghosts or horror!"

She amazingly affirmed!

"Then why go to a haunted house?"

I can't help asking with all my heart. Because you told me that you wanted to come, I thought that you liked them ... ....

"It's fun to experience things ... ... It's fun because it's scary!"

"Well, that kind of thing ... ....?"

"But .... I am scared and this is scarier than I thought ..."

Sakurai's expression was painted by fear as much as I could see in the dark.

"Ah, that, that ... ... well, if it's okay ........... Kashiwada's clothes, can I hold on to your clothes .....?"

Sakurai asked while looking at me with watery eyes.

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"Oh ... oh ... well, of course ..."
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She stretched her trembling hands and softly held the blazer's hem of my uniform.

A girl is holding my clothes and I do not feel bad honestly. But is it possible that her fear will be alleviated? It is not rare thing and I do not know anything about it at all ....

The inside of the classroom is dark and the surroundings can't be seen as well, and even walking is very hard. I go forward little by little, but several times I hit a wall or something and Sakurai's head hits my shoulder; it is inconvenient but it can't be helped.

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"Well ... ...."
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"Oh! Oh, I'm sorry I hit you from a while ago!"

"No, Uh, well, I don't mind .....if you want ... you can hold on to my arms ..."

I try to pretend to be cool as possible so that you won't know that I am upset as well. I was blushing but I was saved thanks to the darkness.

"Yeah yeah!"

To my expectation, Sakurai was surprised and raised her loud voice. Well, that was disgusting enough to raise it loud ...? Certainly, you may not like holding a man's arms who you don't like ... ....

"Is it OK really? ...Um, then ... I'm sorry ... I will excuse myself ..."

Sakurai immediately held my arm with both hands.

It is not frustrating, but it is kind of frustrating because now I'm preoccupied about touching her or not touching her.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Sorry, thank you ...."

Sakurai's hand was slightly trembling.

I wonder if she is so scared of ghosts. Or ... was she nervous because of her holding my arm ...?

Whatever, it's hard to walk like this ....

"Sakurai-san ... ...."

I thought of something... ... I reached out to Sakurai.

I will be ashamed if somewhere along the way, she will trip and fall down.

"Ha ha ...... Eh, oh yeah, yeah yeah yeah yeah! Here I am ..."

Sakurai is raising her voice loudly as if it she was severely scared.

"Oh, I thought of something ... but I guess this is for the best ... ..."

"..... a ...... um ... ... ... ... ... "

Sakurai inclined her head to listen ... but she her answer is to softly, gently grasp my hand.

Ooooooooo, the first time I held hands with a girl ... ...!

No, exactly ..... Recently, I practiced folk dancing for the late night festival, and I was holding hands with all the girls in class for the first time ... but this is totally different thing.

Why am I reaching out for her when I was probably more nervous ... .... My hot face is sweating;my heart is insanely beating ... .... Oh yeah, this is an honest haunted house mansion! I ...I did a bold thing ...

Everywhere, there were stupid skulls, zombie-like dolls and other scary props but we were completely unresponsive even when we saw them. I was scared that much until a while ago, now, I wondering why I don't feel any terror at all. All my nerves are concentrate on the my right hand which is holding hands.

I was too embarrassed to look at Sakurai's face, as I walked with a gentle stride. I wonder what she is doing now ... ... Even though she was so loud a

while ago, she stopped talking as soon as she caught my hand. Her silence and the room's silence makes me more and more nervous.

Her hands were trembling while holding my hand. But even while trembling, it grasps my hand tightly. ...... I really cared, I kept my embarrassment in and turned my face towards her. Sakurai was looking down. It's dark and I can't see her expression. It seems that she noticed I was looking at her and our eyes met, because she turned her face towards me.

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We stiffened as our eyes met. She has moistened eyes with a nervous looking face. She looks ... very cute ...

The next moment.

"I am the ghost of this cursed mansion !!"!

"Gaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

Suddenly a ghost appeared from under a black cloth and we both screamed at once.

"!?"

As I noticed, Sakurai-san took off my hand ... ... and was holding on to me.

.....Oh ... her breasts are hitting me... ....

Sakurai was pretty embarrassed and disengaged from me .... and ran out to the exit as quickly as possible.

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"Cha, Sakurai ... ...!"
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In a hurry I chased her.

"Ha, thanks for your hard work ~!"

"Haa, see, ha ... ...."

We ran out of breath at the exit of the haunted house, after all that running.

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"Hey, sorry ... I ran suddenly ..."
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Sakurai remembered and was apologizing with her ears red.

Speaking for myself, I can still remember the feeling of Sakurai's soft chest when she hugged me from a while ago, I felt happy.

"Well then ... let's go over to the next one!"

Sakurai spoke to me as brightly as natural. I felt like she was desperately hiding her embarrassment.

"Oh, yeah yeah! That's right! Well ... ... "Running away", Is that it?"

I also had a bad attitude.

We talked with embarrassment while looking at the brochure without looking at each other.

"Well, "running away" is on the third floor!"

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"Ah, yes!"
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While talking, we climb up the stairs to the third floor.

"How about fortune telling ~! Please try it!"

As soon as we reached the third floor, we heard some girls students.

"Fortune telling ... ...!"

Sakurai is interested.

"Do you want to try?"

"Oh, OK!"

While being guided by girls' students, we head towards "Hall of Fortune Telling".

As we entered the classroom, there were about three desks and a student who is wearing a fortuneteller costume was sitting behind each chair. There

<sup>&</sup>quot;No, it's OK....."

<sup>&</sup>quot;Well, and also ... ... in addition to ... ... I'm really sorry!"

were signs "Tarot card fortune telling", "Birthday fortune telling" and "Palms fortune telling" respectively. Two were already filled with other customers, and only the desk of "Birthday fortunetelling" was available.

We were guided to the front of the desk of 'Birthday fortune' and we sat down on the two chairs.

"Well ... first, please write your full name and date of birth on this piece on the paper"

I wrote my name and birth date on the paper I was given. Born November 16th ... ... and. After finishing writing my date of birth, I saw Sakurai. May 2 ... ... Sakurai's birthday is in May ... Well then she is already sixteen years old.

When I noticed it, Sakurai was also staring at my paper.

"Thank you very much, so please wait a moment"

The Fortune teller girl student started typing on the keyboard of a personal computer while reading the papers on which we wrote our birthday.

... No doubt the birthday fortune teller merely uses the free birthday fortune telling app on the net ... ?

Well, she is not a professional fortune teller, merely a high school student at the culture festival ...

"Yes! It came out!"

Pushing the Enter key, the fortuneteller's student says to the satisfaction.

"Well, then ... first of all, I will read the results of your boyfriend, Naoki Kashiwada's basic character"

""Boyfriend!""

Sakurai and I surprised and raised a loud voice at the same time.

Well, that's right ...if a man and a woman come together to a fortune telling stall, it is easy to misunderstand that they are a couple ... ....

The fortuneteller students also began to read the results of fortunetelling while making funny faces at us who raised our voices at the same time.

"Well ... ... The basic character of Mr. Naoki Kashiwada is that he is gentle and

friendly, he doesn't have any prejudice or repulsive heart, he is indecisive and stubborn but constant and enthusiastic. He is shy and easily intimidated and also but poor at socializing but easy to get along with. He is serious but easily tempted. He is usually discreet and has a passive personality."

"I'm seriously interested!"

Sakurai made a loud voice, I was surprised at her reaction.

Is that right ... ....? I'm delicate on my own ... ... I mean, I agree on a lot of things like holding no prejudices or repulsive hearts; my stubbornness, indecision, unsociable or being easily tempted ... I wonder how Ms. Sakurai sees me ...? I'm shocked.

"Then ... women around him will never leave, and there are many cases where he is often favored.

I wonder if that was me! It is something like a joke ... ....

"Ah, I have not noticed... ... "

While saying that, Sakurai's reaction looks a little worried ... ....

"!?"

Sakurai face has wrinkles between the eyebrows. She is holding her mouth with her hand. What's with this reaction is .....?

"Well then, I will read the basic character of Azuki Sakurai"

"... Eh !?, Yes!"

Sakurai who replied has with a slightly nervous looking face.

"The basic character of Azuki Sakurai ...... She is surrounded by a lot of friends. With high self-assertiveness, she is highly cooperative and does not give discomfort at parties, but her likes and dislikes are intense Although she avoids persons who are not good to her, she will act favorably to persons who likes her regardless of sex, especially if they share the same interests as her. Also note that she can be extremely convincing, especially in a place with pleasant surroundings and a good mood."

<sup>&</sup>quot;I'm seriously interested!"

"Oh, is that so - — ...?"

Sakurai looks dissatisfied with the feeling that she is not convinced. No, you have a lot things that are nicer than mine, isn't it better ...?

"Love ... love ..... Although you have a lot of luck, there are many things that does not go well; I recommend that you plan your approach systematically by looking at the timing."

"Ha! Nice, I see!"

When Sakurai heard the fortunetelling result, she immediately took out her notebook and pen from her bag and started taking notes. Huh.....? When they talked about my basic character, I did not take notes at all, but what about her? Have you been told something that will make you much excited ...?

..... Oh, that's right, I forgot about it, but when we went to play, Sakurai said "I like someone ..."

A crush .... Even now, we are going around the cultural festival together, I guess there are other guys she likes ... .... I did not think much about it when I heard that fact, but for some reason now ... ... I feel a little sad. The more you memorize the result of the divination means that the more you like him .... What kind of person is he? To be honest, I am envious.

".....Kashiwada .... Why are you getting distant eyes? Is there something missing?" "... .... Oh, sorry, nothing!"

..... No way, I could not say that I was sad because I remembered you have someone you like, so I hastily replied that.

"Well, at the end we will announce the compatibility of you two."

"Compatibility!?"

Sakurai and I also raised our voices at the same time. It was not supposed that it would surely be compatible with compatibility. Although we are not a couple ... .... It was misunderstood that we were a couple since we came together to the fortune telling ... .... It is most awkward for me and Sakurai to listen to the results of compatibility since we are not a couple, but it was more awkward to say, "No, we are not a couple!" Therefore, there is no choice but to listen

silently.

"The compatibility between the two of you ... ... De Lerururu Lulururu

The fortuneteller's student started reproducing the drum roll with the curly tongue. No, it's like that, please do it quickly.

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"Wha! What the ... ... 100% compatibility!"
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The fortuneteller's student applauded towards us and said the shocking result.

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".....eh!?"
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It is 100%, is it ...? A rare result... .... don't all couples get a 100% compatibility from the companion fortune?

"It's really 100%! Hey! Honestly I am surprised! This is the first time we got this result!"

Did you realize that I was looking at suspicion? Students of fortunetellers looked like they were panicking and showed us the personal computer screen for us. ..... There certainly was a letter saying "The compatibility between Naoki Kashiwada and Azuki Sakurai is 100%."

"You are very good people, you can have a good time together, you can overcome any difficulties."

The Fortuneteller students read out the results. I was just surprised. Surely until now, I often felt it was fun to be with Sakurai-san, and there was something me sharing the same hobbies as her .... She was a good companion ... Well, I'm talking about how far I can trust the free fortune from the net ....

I was concerned about Sakurai who did not emit a single word about this and looked at her ... Sakurai was in a state of ecstasy with her eyes wide open. She is totally stiff and does not move at all.

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"Sakurai-san ... ...!"
"... ... Ha!"
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She got back in a hurry. What's with that reaction ...? Did her compatibility with me shocked her too much ....?

"Well then, your birthday fortune telling is over, thank you."

"Ah, yes, thank you ... ...."

We said our good-byes to the fortuneteller's students, and left the "fortunetelling house".

"Yea <u>Bobobelmonte</u> (talk) 14:51, 21 July 2017 (CEST) That was real fun! And absolutely free as well! I didn't believe much in fortune tellers, but I totally believe them today!"

Sakurai began praising "the fortunetelling house" while walking in the corridor.

"Well, yeah ... you do?"

"OK now ... Next we are going to"running away"OK? — Kashiwada, if you have somewhere you want to go later, do not worry!

She seems to be a totally different person from the one who was frightened inside the haunted house – I was thinking. She is skipping while saying such things with high tension. .....? Is she messed up?

Have she enjoyed her fortune so much? Was something said that made her very gladly personally? I wonder what ... ... Although when it was said that her basic personality is quite good, she seemed dissatisfied. Or was it about her love luck? But I was heard that her love needs work ... ....

..... Uh, or ... ... No, I do not like where I am going next ... ... That's ... ...I can't do that ... ....?

"Huh?! Kashiwada-kun, what's wrong?"

Sakurai asked me a strange question. It seems that when I was seriously thinking, she noticed it.

"Oh, sorry! It is nothing! We are going to "running away "?

I could not ask her, so I stopped thinking about it and hurriedly replied.

With Sakurai in a good mood, she headed straight to the classroom where it says "running away."

"Welcome ~! Everyone!"

When we enter the classroom, we were immediately instructed by a student.

'Running away' ... ... I think it seems similar to some variety shows on TV, is this an imitation of them? Certainly, the contestants try to escape from the hunters ... ... Simply put, the game is Tag.

""Running"is a game where customers escape as in the title! Time limit is 10 minutes, if you can evade the hunters for 10 minutes, you customers and we will give you prizes."

The clerk explained, while handling the bibs. It seems that this is like the TV shows.

"Please wear this so you can distinguish a fugitive from a hunter."

As we were told, I wore the bib number on front of my clothes.

"Since others might be put in danger, we will only use the fourth floor as the first floor, the fifth floor and the sixth floor where you can escape. The hunters are both boys, so girls please do not run into the girls' toilet. The hunter will start the chase after a minute the customers escape from this classroom. These are the Hunters. "

We were introduced to the hunters ..... Two boys in studded sunglasses wearing suits. Both of them are tall. Both seem to in shape and looks like they are fast and quick

Can we evade these two fast and quick looking people for 10 minutes ...? I don't feel like winning already ....

"By the way, even if you start together, you can escape separately. If you have not been caught after 10 minutes, please come back to this classroom."

We were shown a small timer.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Haa ..."

"Before you start, please go upstairs to the 4th floor, then, go to your positions ...." I'm not ready yet, but I'm ready to run hastily with that shout. "START!" We jumped out of the classroom at once. "And, for the time being, from the stairs there ..." Looking back, I told Ms. Sakurai that we should go up to the fourth floor ... .... ".....eh!?" Already, Sakurai was far behind me. Sakurai-san caught up with me after I slowed down. ... ... Sakurai, why are you running slowly? "Ha, ha ... ... sorry, I'm late ..." "No, I am not looking at you properly ... I'm sorry ... let's go to the upper floor for now!" "Yes, ...!!" I rush up the stairs that was nearby. "Ha Ha....." Sakurai seems already exhausted and was desperately going up the stairs. "I'm sorry ... Maybe we should separate .... It might be better ... my legs don't look like they will last ...." Sakurai takes a breath and says sorry. "No, let's run away together!" I immediately answered. Because it doesn't seem interesting to escape alone ... ....

"Huh....."

Sakurai is surprised and opened her eyes at my answer.

"..., what's wrong? Let's go quickly!"

The Hunters will catch up if we don't leave soon ....

"Yes, ... ... Thank you! ...!!"

Sakurai said thankfully as if she was deeply impressed, she ran up the stairs and caught up with me.

We arrived at the fourth floor, so we decided to stay on this floor for the time being. Because there are two hunters, I do not know where to come from.

"Ha ha! That one!"

Sakurai gave a loud voice. A man in sunglasses wearing a suit suddenly came and found us. He starts running to this place. We hurriedly changed direction and return the way we have come.

"Ha Ha....."

While running, look backwards. Oh, Sakurai - san is falling behind ... What to do ... ....

"Huh?"

"Sorry!"

I took her hand while being embarrassed. I want Sakurai to understand I did only this to keep her from being captured by the hunters. Well ... It was the second time for me as well as for Sakurai in one day.

"Sakurai, here!"

I found the stairs so I got up and started running again.

Although I do not know why I am desperately running for this game, I get thrills I normally don't experience and I am having fun as well. Running is the only good thing for me... ....

"Fuu ..... we managed somehow ..."

We reached the fifth floor and we were able to escape from the Hunters so we calmed down. Well, at least we are safe for now ...

"Haa, haaa haaa ... "

Sakurai was completely exhausted and went down to the floor.

"Ah ... sorry!"

I noticed that I was still holding her hand, I quickly released my hand.

"No, no ... thank you ... Kashiwada, you're fast ... you're good at track ...most reliable ...!"

Sakurai is out of breath, but her eyes are shining as she looks at me.

"No ... I'm sorry, I forced you to run ..."

"No, because I'm weak ... I have no physical fitness ..."

However, we can't stay her resting forever. I did not feel like the hunters will find us. However, looking at Sakurai who is still out of breath, I can't force her to run any more.

When I took out the compact timer that was on my uniform pocket and checked the time, we consumed about 4 minutes – the time limit is 10 minutes. Well, here is an idea ....

"Would you like to hide in a classroom until the end of the time limit?"

I thought it was a good idea. I do not want to make Sakurai suffer any more.

"Oh, really? We are saved!"

We went into an empty classroom and closed both the front and back door just in case.

"... Do you hear any footsteps?"

Sakurai says in a loud voice while looking frightened. In a hurry I listened.

............ Certainly, I heard running footsteps approaching. Probably it is a hunter as there should not be any person on this floor where there is no work being done. A Hunter is on this floor!

"He might come inside the classroom Let's hide!"
I look for places to hide inside the classroom.
Wherever I look, there is only one place where you can be completely hidden.
"What shall I do Kashiwada, we must hide quickly"
I heard the voice of Sakurai who was frightened from behind me, I decided.
"0"
Sakurai is blushing and severely upset.
"Sorry, we have no choice here"
We hid and kept silent and tried not to think of other things.
I regret that I have made a bad judgment.

Deciding to hide here can only be said to be a reckless thing...!

There was no choice but the closet was narrower than I thought.

Inside the closet, although it was impolite, Sakurai has her back facing me. At least Sakurai's breast is not pressed me against me now. With the back of her head in front of me, I can smell the scent of her shampoo drifting;it's making me feel good. The scent was numbing my senses even as I tried to ward of its effects, sorry for being a bit perverted.

Even though I have minimal contact with Sakurai's body, I am now at my limit as her beautiful legs and butt that were hidden by her mini skirt were touching my thigh ...

Kuu ... I am between hell and heaven! I want this game to finish soon, no, I want this game to go on forever ... But my lower body has already reached its limit. If Sakurai - san falls down from her current position even if it is a little, I am at my end.

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"Kashiwada... isn't this place too narrow ...?"
"1?"
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Suddenly Sakurai turned around only at her neck and turned her face towards me.

No, don't do that! Do not bring your face closer even if you are asking me! Keep your voice down! And why are you still using polite language? Even though I desperately thought of others things to distract me, they were all wasted.

..... As shameful as it is, it may be better for you if I leave here and get caught by a Hunter ... Whatta game ....

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" "
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Sakurai stared at me silently while turning her face toward me.

I think that I am doing something horrible for you to be staring at me like that ...... Why are you staring so much!? And we are at such close range, the effect will be increased! If you bring your face a little closer, at that distance, a kiss will .... I was hit by the feeling that my brain is melting ....

Bang!!

"!?"

At the next moment, the door was suddenly opened and it got brighter.

"Found you!"

There was a Hunter in a suit in front of us.

We were hiding in the cleaning tool box in the corner of the classroom.

Huh...? The Hunter has come inside the classroom unexpectedly ...? I did not notice this at all – I was distracted ...!

Sakurai quickly jumped out of the cleaning tool box and left me. I sat in the floor and looked down so that no one can see my face.

Uoo ... ... you wanted to get away from me so as soon as possible ...? From behind I can't see what kind of face she has right now ... but I see that her ears are red.

Perhaps, she was embarrassed ...?

Speaking for myself, I was feeling somewhat relieved and am stiff after getting out of the cleaning tool box.

At that time, suddenly, the alarm was sounded.

I take out the compact timer that I placedin my pocket.

At the same time, the hunter also took out a small timer from his pocket.

"The time limit of the game is just over now"

"Wow!"

We were caught just a little before the time limit ...? It is frustrating ... ....

"The game is over now, please challenge later if you want!"

"Ha, ... ...."

We went back to the classroom where we started and returned our timers and bib numbers then we picked up our bags and left the classroom.

" "

Earlier, we were staring at each other in close range inside the cleaning tool box. I am in a state of embarrassment and probably Sakurai as well. Sakurai is also feeling awkward; we do not talk. Perhaps she is angry at me ...?

"Ah, that ... ... after this ... what shall we do?"

When I asked her, Sakurai broke her silence and I feel a little relieved.

"Oh, yeah ... what shall we do ....."

"How about a coffee shop!?"

We hear a voice calling to enter a coffee shop.

"I got tired of running around ... ... Would you like to go to a coffee shop?"

```
"Oh, yes!"
```

Because I wanted to rest somewhere, it was just right.

"Welcome, please enter here!"

When we entered the classroom converted into a coffee shop, we were immediately guided our seats.

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"One orange juice ..."
```

"Oh, I want one as well."

"Please wait a moment."

The student clerk was gone and we were silent come again.

"..... Ah ... that is to say .... I am sorry for making you something unreasonable ..."

During the game of "running away", after an unreasonable amount of running, we eventually got trapped after pushing Sakurai inside a narrow hiding place. I was worried that Sakurai might be offended so I was apologizing.

"..... eh!? Why? Rather, thank you for really helping me! Thanks to you, the game was sooo much fun and thrilling!"

She said so with a smile so I was relieved from the bottom of my heart.

"Kashiwada-kun ... ... again, I'm counting on you later again ..."

"Well sure, is that so ..."

Sakurai shyly added something. I also answered shyly. That was flattering to me ... I'm happy.

Our order has arrived.

"Ah, that ... .... Sakurai, in the "Hall of Fortune Telling", you got an amazing result ...."

I talk about what interested me a while ago.

"—guhee!?"

She has choked juice and has started coughing.

```
"cough cough ..."
  "Are you OK?"
  "Oh, I'm sorry ..."
  I was surprised so much ... ....
  "Oh, yes ..... I took notes .... So I was seen ....."
  Sakurai seems to be embarrassed about it.
  "Oh ... as the fortune said things to improve my love life, I thought that it
would be better if I take notes of the advice ...."
  "Oh ......! Ah, hahaha ... yes ..."
  "Then who is the one you like, ... what do I mean is ...? ... aren't you anxious ...
 I try to ask as casually as possible.
 I was very concerned about who is the one Sakurai liked. If she replies with, "I
want to go out with you !", I can't answer it, it will not turn out quite well ....
  "Who is the one I like?"
 Sakurai is more confused about my question than I imagined.
 I wonder if it was such a question that she did not want to hear ... ....?
  "Well, uh ... ... well, especially ... ... no one ... ... I do not feel like progressing ...
 She diverted her line of sight from me, and responded to me in such a way.
  No progress or ... Oh, I'm sorry Sakurai, but I am a bit happy for your reply ...
  "Is that so....."
  "Aaa, Kashiwada-kun ... ... who is it ... .... The one you like ..."
  "Oh, me!? —— ....... I also have no progress, sorry ..."
```

Since Sakurai asked me about the one I liked - I went to another cultural festival together with my crush Hasegawa .... And because there was not much progress lately, I answered honestly.

```
"Ah, that's right! ..... Oh that ... Kashiwada ... ... who you like ..."

"Eeeeh!?"

"... No, no, nothing!"
```

Sakurai rushed and took a rest with a smile.

I thought for a moment whether if she knew who I am talking about ...

"Thank you very much!"

We were able to take a good rest, so we left the coffee shop.

"Well, what should we do after this ... I want to go somewhere else ..."

I spread the brochure and tried to ask Sakurai, then.

"\_\_\_!"

I saw the figure of Hasegawa.

She was walking in the hallway with a pamphlet all by herself. Is she going around the cultural festival alone? When I was looking for her much earlier I couldn't find her, imagine meeting her in such a place ....

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"Hasegawa ... ...!"
```

"Kashiwada-kun ..."

Hasegawa also noticed me and saw Sakurai who is next to me.

"... Ah she is the one who played the Prince ... ...."

Sakurai looked at Hasegawa and said such words.

Now Hasegawa had changed clothes from the prince's costume to a uniform, but Sakurai seems to remember her face.

Well, in times like this ... What on earth do you do?

"Oh she is ... my classmate, Hasegawa Midori ..... And she is ... Sakurai Azuki ......"

For the time being I was dismayed but managed to introduce them to each

other.

"Thank you! The role of the prince, it suits you sooo well, you were so cool!"

Sakurai greeted Hasegawa with a smile. As I thought before, Sakurai really has good communication skills ....

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"Ah ... ... Thank you."
```

Hasegawa thanked her while looking a little puzzled.

"Ah ... Hasegawa, after our play .... where were you?"

I shake myself up and ask questions to Hasegawa.

"I am helping with the work of the festival executive committee; but as I was finished earlier, I was watching the shows."

"Oh, that's right!"

..... That means that Hasegawa was still going around the cultural festival alone ... ... I can see how lonesome that is as I was doing the same earlier.

Oh, what should I do in this situation ...... can I invite Hasegawa and Sakurai to watch the cultural festival together as three people ... ... is that convenient? I look at the faces of Hasegawa and Sakurai alternately. For Hasegawa and Sakurai, this is their first meeting, I wonder if there is incompatibility ... I did not know what to do, I was quiet. Oh, I really do not like this ....

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11 11
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And I noticed Sakurai was staring at my face. She might be wondering what I am thinking.

"Well, I am going now ..."

Hasegawa says so.

"Oh wait a second ... ..."

I tried to hold back the Hasegawa when.

".... Oh, that's right ... I ... after this ... I have forgotten some duties in my class!

".....!?"

Sakurai-san's word, I was surprised.

Class duties ......? Sakurai has said that she was free when she watched our class play ... Are there other duties for her?

"Sorry ... I will return to my class!"

"Oh .... Eh? ... OK ...."

I reply to her words while being embarrassed.

"Well then, please excuse me!"

Sakurai gives a greeting to us with a smile and returns to her class as it is.

"Do your best ...."

Suddenly, Sakurai looked back as if she suddenly remembered something.

"Ah .... Um ... Kashiwada-kun ... thank you for going around with me ... Thank you so much ... that was a lot of fun! ... Well then!

Sakurai said with a full smile before she turned her back again to us and went back to her class.

It is I who should be thanking you ... ... I was able to have fun because of Sakurai-san. However, I had no time to reply as Sakurai flew away from me in no time.

We were left in this awkward atmosphere.

"..... Eh um ... Hasegawa ..... Since you are going around alone .... Why don't I accompany you...? the person with me has gone away ... ...."

I tried to take advantage of this great opportunity; I gathered my courage and invited Hasegawa.

"... yeah, if you're okay with me ..."

Although Hasegawa was a bit perplexed, she accepted my invitation.

With this, I was able to go around the cultural festival with Hasegawa as I



## **Chapter 3**

"How long have Hasegawa gone around?" I was asking questions to Hasegawa while walking in the corridor. "I haven't been around much, I just went around the exhibitions ..." "Oh, that's right ....." Oh yeah, even I can't enter the haunted house or "runaway" alone. "Is there somewhere that you would like to go?" "Well, uh ..... here, I wonder ... ...." Hasegawa showed me the brochure. There was a letter written "Laknick skit" there. "Oh, it's a skit ... .... 1 - C's doing it in the classroom, is not it?" I remember that Hasegawa likes comedy. "Oh, that's right ... Kashiwada-kun, I was supposed to watch it with Rio." "Oh is that so?" Rio ... .... She is Ryoo Sonoda, a close friend of Hasegawa during junior high school. I heard the story of how Hasegawa met Sonoda for the first time after I went with Hasegawa to Joypolis. Well Sonoda is coming ... that was unexpected. "I'm sorry ..... I didn't know that you invited her .... I will just disturb you two I was anxiously apologizing to Hasegawa.

"No ... that's not true, I think rather Rio will be delighted."

So, we three people will go around the cultural festival ....

Hasegawa smiled and denied my words.

Since Sonoda was about to arrive soon, Hasegawa and I decided to wait for Ms. Sonoda at the school entrance before moving to the classroom of "Laknick skit".

"Hey ~ Hey Hey!"

As soon as she arrived at the entrance, Sonoda jumped to Hasegawa. Suddenly surprised, I stared at them.

"Rio ... ... doing such things at the entrance!"

Hasegawa looks down on Sonoda with a confused expression, but she doesn't seem to care. The other girl looks crazy about Hasegawa and has a happy smile like ... ... a dog? It is rude to say such things but ....

"Oh, Kashiwada-kun!"

Sonoda finally noticed me, and gave a small smile at me.

"Well, Dosho .... It's been a long time."

"Why is Honorifics!? Don't be a stranger!"

Sonoda immediately pointed out when I used honorifics.

Well, that's right ... we are at the same age and I will try to speak casual in the future ...

"Well, even though I really wanted to see Hasegawa in the play today, I overslept."

Sonoda put her tongue out as she stroked her head. The sunny appearance of Hasegawa ... ... is, of course, the role of the prince of the play.

"You overslept ... it's already two thirty in the afternoon? What time did you get up?"

"I seemed to be tired because of club activities went late yesterday. When I got home, I slept well. Come on ~"

Sonoda laughs with a smiling face. Hasegawa sighed as she was amazed. Part 21 "Club activities went late ... aren't you in the exercise club ...?"

What is it? I tried to ask while barely avoiding using honorifics like before.

"Oh yeah! We are playing a basketball game"

Basketball .... Somehow I imagine she looks good at exercising. It is hard to practice until such a late time.

"But the play is tomorrowso if you see it tomorrow it would be awesome ~"

"Rio, you ... ... Are you planning to come to our school festival for two consecutive days?"

"Oh yes! Well, tomorrow I have a part time job, so I have to go home soon after I see the play"

Would you like to see the prince role of Hasegawa for two consecutive days ...? Sonoda's feelings for Hasegawa is also quite considerable.

"By the way, I'm really hungry, can we eat something !?"

"Did you eat lunch?"

"I have not eaten in the morning, I slept late!"

"You should have said it earlier!"

When she is with Sonoda, does Hasegawa change her attitude... ?. This is another new discovery.

For Sonoda, we decided to have her eat something from the schoolyard shops. Sonoda buys Takoyaki with Frankfurt and eats alone as Hasegawa and I already had lunch. Since she has not eaten anything in the morning, she has a lot of appetite. I wonder if she can eat more than me. She is doing exercise, so I think her calorie consumption is great, though.

"Would you like to eat sushi too? No, I will not let you refuse to eat."

Sonoda puts Takoyaki in her chopsticks and carries it to the mouth of Hasegawa.

Oh, it is true that girls do this in such a place ... ... I will also see Hasegawa do the "aaahhh"! It's a bit of a reward for me.

"Oh, is it too hot for you?"

Sonoda started eating the Takoyaki, seeing the state of Hasegawa who was trying not to open her mouth.

"Do not do anything extra and just eat quickly."

Hasegawa \_\_\_\_ 0 Hasegawa, which is a bit like S, was also the best. I felt like the kindness of a mother scolding children in coldness. "Fuu ~ full stomach! Where will we go next!?" To Sonoda who is satisfyingly lightly hitting her belly, Hasegawa says, "Please stop that." "Ah ... ... we wanted to go to "Laknick skit" a while ago, but ...." I opened a brochure and explained to Sonoda. ""Laknick skit "~!? Husband's taste huh?" "Wha, what ... is that bad?" "Well I can't think of a high-school skit about what high school students do .... I do think it's very interesting, as just by looking at the title is giving me a fit of laughter. I think it's something funny so it might not be a bad idea to go! " Once we were able to get Sonoda's consent (?), We were headed to class1-C's "Laknick skit" as three people. "Oh ... sorry, can I go to the bathroom first?" "Yes, of course." Before heading for the skit, we all headed to the toilet. After I finished, the others were not here yet. While waiting for Hasegawa and Sonoda in front of the boys' toilet, I observe the people enjoying the cultural festival. There are students at our school, people in plain clothes and people wearing different school uniforms. ".....eh!?" Then ... I have found a figure of a person who can't be here. "... Yamamoto !?" I was so surprised that I said his name out loud.

There was Mr. Yamamoto, my senior in my workplace.

Why the he is here?

"Oh ... ... Kashiwada-kun !?"

Mr. Yamamoto is also surprised at me.

"I'm surprised ... Is Kashiwada also a student at Fujimi High School?"

"Yes, that's right ... Why is Mr. Yamamoto here?"

You told yesterday on the phone that you urgently needed to take a day off from work today ....

"I ... ... my sister attends this high school."

"Oh, did you come to see her?? You said that on the phone yesterday, maybe

"Oh, yeah ... ... It's embarrassing, so I couldn't say it, but that's right ... ... Then I found a person who can swap shift with me."

I knew that Mr. Yamamoto had a sister, but a student at my high school ... ... It is such a coincidence.

By the way, I heard from rumors at work that Yamamoto is a siscon ... ... he wanted to come to see his sister's high school culture festival so wanted to swap work shifts ... what a tricky demon ... my rudethoughts.

"No way, your sister is a student at my school ... I was surprised."

But she seems not to be of my acquaintance. I do not know a Yamamoto among the girls.

"Haha, I have not told the principal ... I guess I'll be banished if we meet ..."

Yamamoto says with a bitter smile. It does not look like he is telling a joke.

...... That reminds me, he used to say something like his sister hated him ... .... Is it also a complicated circumstance?

At that time, Mr. Yamamoto shifted his eyes behind me, opens up his big eyes and looked like a terrible surprise.

```
"... Sis ...?"
Surprised by the name he mentioned, I look backwards.
 There was Hasegawa and Sonoda who came out of the girls' toilet.
  Hasegawa ... ... I saw has a badly surprised expression.
  "What ... ... ...?"
  Hasegawa was surprised, then gave a sad looking expression, which was
utterly incomprehensible ... and said with a small voice.
  "... I heard from mother that today is your cultural festival ..."
  Mr. Yamamoto walks towards Hasegawa step by step.
  ..... What on earth is this ...?
No way ... Yamamoto's sister is Hasegawa!?
No, but ... ... Hasegawa and Mr. Yamamoto, their surnames are different ... ....
  "...... Ohl remembered something urgent ... ...."
  "Eeehhh!?"
 Hasegawa seemed to be terribly upset and suddenly started running away
from us.
  ".....Hasegawa!?"
  "Midori??"
 Surprised, me and Sonoda hurriedly called Hasegawa and gave chase. But ... ...
I got confused by the crowd and we lost sight of Hasegawa.
  "Midori ... ... What's the matter?"
  Sonoda muttered with a concerned face. I also felt the same as her.
 What the hell ... Hasegawa? Now, completely ... ... you ran away ... ...?
Hasegawa who is always calm is now upset and acting in such a way ... ....
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I heard footsteps following us, I turned around and saw Mr. Yamamoto following us. "Ah ..... Um ... maybe ...... Yamamoto's sister ......" I was afraid to open my mouth. "Oh ..... Hasegawa Midori is my sister." With the words of Yamamoto, I and Sonoda were dismayed. To see Sonoda's appearance, Sonoda also seems to have met with Mr. Yamamoto who is the older brother of Hasegawa for the first time. Sonoda took out her cell phone and started calling. Of course, she was calling Hasegawa. "Why did you suddenly run away? Where are you now - ... .... -—————, yeah ..." Sonoda hung up after a bit of conversation. "Because she looks a bit confused now ... ... I guess you can leave it to me, I guess it's not a big deal at all." Sonoda says to me with a bitter smile. "Oh ... yeah, I understood ... ... about Hasegawa ... good luck." "Kashiwada, let's play again later on another occasion!" Sonoda said goodbye to me and also bowed to Mr. Yamamoto before going to Hasegawa. I was worried about the situation of Hasegawa ... ... It is okay if I leave it to Sonoda ... .... I slowly turned towards Mr. Yamamoto.

There are too many things I want to hear, and I do not know what to say how to say huh ..... Mr. Yamamoto asked me a voice.

"... ... Kashiwada, do you have some time ...?"

"AA no....."

I and Yamamoto went out to the school yard and bought drinks at a simulated shop, then we sat down on the stairs a little away from the crowd.

"Well, I was really surprised ... ... It is true that Kashiwada is a student at Fujimi High School ... but ... No way, he is a classmate ..."

"Hahaha ... no, I was also surprised ... ...."

11 11

Mr. Yamamoto opened his mouth slowly after he had a serious expression.

"As I said earlier ... Midori is my sister"

I swallowed my spit... their last names are different ....

"Three years ago ... our parents divorced. It was the last time I saw Midori ..."

"....."

For a moment my head got pure white. Speaking of ... ... Once in a while, I was wondering why Hasegawa never mentions her father in her stories.

"I now live with my father and Midori with my mother and sister"

It was such a thing ... ....

"Hasegawa ... never told that story, I was surprised ..."

"Haha, that's right ... ... for Midori, it's a past she'd rather forget ..."

"Eeehhh!?"

I roared my voice.

"What was it ...? ... Hasegawa ... ... something happened with your sister ... was there ...?"

I could not help asking because I wanted to hear about her situation from her brother.

"... When Midori was small, we were ... on good terms with each other"

Mr. Yamamoto began to speak with a sad expression.

"It was when Midori was in elementary school fourth grade .... she got hooked up in anime and games,"

".....eh!?"

Hasegawa was hooked in anime and games ... ....?

Certainly, there were several times that I suspected that Hasegawa is an otaku. However, she clearly said that she dislikes otaku ....

Although she liked it in the past, did she hate it for some reason?

"Because of that influence, I was a college student at that time, even though I was not interested in it at the start, I have gotten interested in anime and games. At first, I decided to play games and watch anime with Midori .... Later on, I got hooked in earnest, became a so-called, otaku ... .... "

"... ...!" Mr. Yamamoto, otaku ... ... I did not know that at all. I never heard this kind of story even at my part-time job, and his appearance is stylish and cool, and doesn't look like an Otaku at all.

"Ah ... that's right, before, Hasegawa ... ... Your sister told me something when we went to Big Sight ...."

Unexpectedly when I went to Odaiba with the Hasegawa during the summer vacation I remembered what Hasegawa said. At that time, I wondered when she went to the Big Sight — is it for summer or winter comiket!? Hasegawa is an Otaku! My thoughts ranaway without permission. When I think about it, I began to doubt if Hasegawa wasn't an otaku at that time ...

"Oh ... when Midori was an elementary school student, I took her to an anime event. It is a big event that I go to every spring at the big site. I want to go with Midori to meet the voice actor I like. We two went out twice... "

"Anime event ... ...?"

Although I only thought about summer or winter comiket, the Big Site also do a lot of events besides those.

Going with more people to an event, the better ....

"It's different from today but before then, net games are the trend. She was playing it first then I also started playing. Soon, both of us were playing

together, but I'm getting more and more addicted  $\dots$  "

"A net game, are you ... ...."

I have done it several times as well. Even though I am quite shy, on the net, I have trouble all the time playing without wanting to stop.

"Yeah ... ... Then it happened .... as the net game disappeared, so did I."

"The Net game disappeared ..... !?"

I have heard it before. A person who is addicted to net games so much that it hinders his daily life. Mr. Yamamoto.... It is impossible to imagine that from his appearance now.

"I have not gone to the university ... I dropped out."

"Well, that is ... ... pretty, serious ..."

"Indeed, it is stupid, ... as it is, I am working and become a Hikikomori ... ... I fought with my parents a lot because of this. My father began blaming my mother ...'You have not been rearing the children properly so they became like this' ... I guess ... my relationships are getting worse more and more "

In his shocking past, I could not say anything.

"My parents scolded me everyday, but I wasn't able to quit playing net games .... Of course my parents gave up on making me change, but I did not say anything ... But even in my condition, for me at that time, only Midori was my salvation."

..... Hasegawa was a kind heart child since such a young age. It seems that the two in those days were able to build a very good relationship ... ....

"But one day ... ... I got a Doujinshi .... I do not know where I got it ... an amateurish are painting ..."

"Ah ... I understand ... ... I am an... ... Otaku"

I interrupted the words of Mr. Yamamoto who tried to explain.

"Oh, Kashiwada is also an Otaku .... "

After sighing, Mr. Yamamoto opened his mouth as he continued.

"The doujinshi I bought I hid in my room ... then it was seen by Midori who was in elementary school ..."

"..... Whaaa?"

I blew my drink juice.

Doujinshi ... was seen by elementary school level Hasegawa ....?

"And the comic has an R18 rating ... and even worse ... the characters were from the favorite anime show of Midori..."

Mr. Yamamoto drooped his head. Remembering those days ... ... he's trying very hard.

"U, Wow Aa ah ... ...."

It was a story that seemed to break my mind as I heard it.

When I say elementary school ... ... I was still pure; I will not have immunity against sexual things. At that time, an erotic doujinshi of your favorite anime character ... ....

"... In other words, it was a rape thing ..."

"Gaijou!"

"Please stop it! Spicy! It is too hot!"

I spontaneously raised my voice as I raised my head.

Yamamoto who slowly raised his face had eyes like a dead fish.

From his everyday appearance which is always reliable and reliable, regardless of gender or faith, it has a look that is impossible to imagine.

"I guess my secret place wasn't so secret ... I just put it inside the desk drawer ... ... While I was away, Midori came to my room to borrow a dictionary or something .... Midori never said anything to me but I saw that doujinshi on the desk ... without a doubt from that day on her attitude to me has become strange ... ... Although we were on good terms with each other, she started avoiding me .... I apologized to Midori and told her to forget about that book ...

but it was useless ... between us there is now a big gap .... " ..... What a tragedy ... .... Even though my sister is watching erotic doujinshi, but she is already in junior high school and most of all, she is rotten who reads homosexual doujinshi only. "I always regret it ever since .... With my carelessness, I burned a big scratch on the heart of a young maiden ..." Mr. Yamamoto said his shame and regret. Perhaps, this is why Hasegawa disliked Otakus ...? "And shortly afterwards ... the gap between me and Midori was not closed ... My parents got divorced. My mother took Midori and my younger sister and left home." " " I could not say anything to Mr. Yamamoto. I did not know what words to say. "Everything ..... It's my fault ... Midori got heartbroken, even our parents divorced ... ... It's natural for me to be grudged by Midori ... ... Since our parents divorced, I thought of seeing Midori butl couldn't ... I don't have a face to show her. " Mr. Yamamoto looks as if he gave up and says with a self-propelled feeling. ... ... but today he came to see Hasegawa. Perhaps he has not completely gave up on his relationship with Hasegawa. "Well ... is today the first time you will try to meet Hasegawa since your parents divorced?" "Yes, since I keep in touch with my mother, I received an e-mail from my mother yesterday. She said that today is the high school culture festival of Midori, I can go see her ... I already put some work for this so ... if I missed this opportunity, I feel like I can't meet her anymore ... " "Have you ever tried to make up with Hasegawa before ...?" "...... No, I do not think Midori would forgive me, but still, I wanted to apologize ... and I wanted to see her face after a while "

Mr. Yamamoto thought that Hasegawa still holds a grudge, but even so ...... Even now I still keep thinking about Hasegawa.

"I knew that she hated me, I was prepared for being avoided like that ... ... It feels different when it happens in reality ... ... it's pretty much hurts ... "

"... .... Mr. Yamamoto ... ...."

Mr. Yamamoto sighed deeply with a bitter smile.

"I'm sorry, I went on talking ... ...."

"I am sorry ..... For you to remembering such a painful story ....."

"Kashiwada ... are you getting along with Midori?"

"Eeehhh....."

Mr. Yamamoto's question was somewhat frustrating for me to reply.

"I do not know if we are on good terms ... but as classmates .... and friends ... I think I want us to become closer ... but not in a strange way! "

As long as I do not know how Hasegawa thinks of me, I had no choice but to answer like this.

"Okay ... ... Thank you"

Yamamoto, for some reason, thanked me with a smile.

"Midori ... ... How is she at school?"

"eh....."

Again, I am stuck in my words for a moment.

".... Well ... she is the class representative and her grades are quite outstanding; she is always thinking about the class ..."

How is she doing at school? I noticed that I did not answer his question. However, I did not feel telling Yamamoto the fact that Hasegawa has very few friends.... in addition ... she still hates Otakus ....

"Oh ... so she is working as hard as ever ...."

Because Mr. Yamamoto was happy to hear my words, I was relieved.

"Although I have Midori's contact information from my mother, I do not have

the courage to e-mail her ... So I was worried whether I could see Midori today or not by chance. But now I think It was a haphazard decision ...

Mr. Yamamoto caressed his head.

"Oh, was that so, you took a chance that you might not have met?"

He happened to meet her in front of the toilet, he was considerably lucky.

"Yeah, I heard about the class from mother, so I thought I could meet her if I go and watch the class play, but apparently your play has already ended? When I came there I was too late to see it .... "

"Oh, is that so ...?"

I told Yamamoto that my class was Snow White and Hasegawa was the prince.

"... Wow, seriously? No way, she would have looked good as the prince ... ... I wanted to see even for a little...."

Mr. Yamamoto was severely disappointed when he heard my story. Perhaps he wanted to see Hasegawa's brave appearance.

"How about coming tomorrow?! Hase ... Midori as the prince looks super cool!"

"Well, I will come tomorrow as well! Your play will also show tomorrow too?"

Mr. Yamamoto was surprised at my words. ... Yamamoto probably thought the cultural festival will only be for one day, was that why he was desperate to swap work shifts?

"... But, Midori will surely dislike me ..."

"Is that so ....? She should be happy to think that her brother is watching her brave figure ......"

"Kashiwada, you saw Midori just now, right? She doesn't want to me ..."

I remembered the state of Hasegawa and I could not say anything. I was ashamed so I tried to cheer Yamamoto by saying appropriate things.

"... ... Kashiwada, I'm sorry I it's time ... I have to go soon ... ... From now on, please take care of Midori."

"Instead of me" ... Mr. Yamamoto looked like he wanted to say that.

When I saw Mr. Yamamoto off at the school gate, I looked at the time and it was already the end time of the first day of the cultural festival.

Since it seems that she will return to the classroom after the cultural festival, I went back to the classroom, too.

Hasegawa was already in the classroom.

I remembered the story I heard from Mr. Yamamoto a while ago, I felt ashamed to say anything, I was staring at the back of Hasegawa during my home room.

It was probably shocking when I found out that my older brother was reading erotic doujinshi when I was in elementary school, and I actually saw it.

Besides, afterwards my older brother became a hikkimori, my parents divorced ... .... Furthermore, she was ignored by her classmates at junior high school, and Sonoda, her close friend, went away to another school.

Hasegawa did not shut herself in even after she has such a painful past; instead she volunteered to be the classroom representative and she is always doing her best trying to make friends, although she is not very good at socializing.

I think about the hardships Hasegawa has gone through. If there was anything I could do for Hasegawa, I wanted to do it.

"Kashiwada-Kun ..."

When the home room was over, I was surprised to hear from Hasegawa.

"A moment ago ... I suddenly ran out, I'm sorry."

"Oh, no ... ... Hasegawa are you all right?"

"Yeah ... ... I worried about Kashiwada and Rio ... I did something wrong."

Hasegawa looks sorry.

"... then ... ... why did you talk with that person ... Kashiwada ...?"

I was a little surprised by Hasegawa's question. That man ... is Yamamoto-san. Hasegawa seems to care about Mr. Yamamoto. "Oh, yeah, in fact ... Yamamoto is my senior in my workplace so I was surprised to learn that Hasegawa is his sister." "Well ... that was, yes, it was ..." Hasegawa seems to be surprised by my words. "And after that, I was asked by Mr. Yamamoto a lot ... ... I thought that it was good to hear ..." ".....is that so ..." Hasegawa did not get angry, she did not seem to be shocked at my words. Hasegawa..... Now what do you think about Yamamoto? I was purely concerned about that. They used to have a good relationship in the past. Mr. Yamamoto is strongly regretting it now and still care about Hasegawa. Can they somehow reconcile? "Um ... ... Hasegawa ... about your brother ... What do you think of him right now?" Fearfully, I asked. II II Hasegawa is silent with her expression blank as usual. I can't read her emotions at all. "Already ... ... that person is unrelated to me ..." ".....eh!?" Hasegawa remained expressionless as she turned her heel and left her desk.

"Unrelated person" ... ... Hasegawa certainly thinks about Yamamoto. ..... what a thing to say about her real brother ... ....

Hasegawa, do you mean your feelings as brother and sister have gone? It is sad as such a brother was in good terms with her a long time ago ....

Hasegawa is still unable to forgive her brother ... ....

Of course there is the case of the doujinshi ... Her parents divorced due to her brother ... maybe she is thinking that ....

I wonder if I can do something .....?

I don't think that it is good to meddle in the affairs of someone else's family but ..... can I only stay silent as is ...?

Slowly, I went to the door to leave, I saw a group of girls talking near the entrance. With them, I saw Koigasaki.

By the way, I forgot to mention to her my impression of her live performance .... Well, maybe she doesn't want to hear them but I still want that she did her best.

When I saw Koigasaki from afar, I thought that my feelings were transmitted. Then my eyes met with Koigasaki's.

... The next moment, Koigasakiwas walking quietly towards me after saying something to her companions.

"Wha, what is ... ...."

Suddenly I feel confused to see Koigasaki standing in front of me.

"What's with that!?"

"Huh?"

"You were watching me from the very beginning, do you want to say something?"

eh...... Was she bothered by me watching her so she came here just to say it ...?

"Well, for me, there was something I wanted to talk about to you about ...."

".....I see ..."

Koigasaki started walking away when I heard my words.

.....Huh? Were you irritated and now returning to the girl group? I was anxious and then... ...

"What are you doing! We can't talk here!"

Koigasaki turned around and said to me who was still rooted to my spot.

"Oh, oh ... ah!"

I make a miserable reply, then I followed Koigasaki.

Leaving the school, we were sitting on a small park bench near the school.

I was silent while walking along with Koigasaki when we arrived.

"There is a park like this ... ... this is my first time here, do you come here often?"

"Ah, don't talk about that, what is your story?"

Impatient b!tch ... ....

"Oh ... your performance with the light music club, it went rather well!"

"... Eh ..... Ah, yes ....."

Koigasaki replies to my words, looking a little beat.

"Oh, you ... ... I went to watch ... ... with Azuki-chan ......"

"Oh ... looking at the stage, I can tell you are doing great with Suzuki."

"..... Seriously?

As soon as she heard my words, Koigasaki relaxed her facial expression. Even though she looked frustrated before now, she is as simple as ever ....

"Ah ... ... I saw it."

"Suzuki, super cared for me during practice even after practice, he is super friendly! Thanks to Suzuki, I did not fail in my singing during the performance

Koigasaki starts talking high in tension. Looking at the state of such a person

..... I should be feeling happy for her, but somehow I could not feel anything.

"You were good ... but please be careful not to be jealous of the female girls who also watched Suzuki's performance ..."

I could finally say such things to her.

"... What is it you want to talk about ...?"

Koigasaki suddenly becomes a serious look, saying such a thing while watching my eyes.

".....What?"

I make it a surprised sound to Koigasaki.

"..... How can you know even before I have the chance to tell you?"

Koigasaki draws wrinkles between the brows and looks at me as if I explore my feelings.

"Something is soooooo dark around you; you have this awful melancholic aura coming out ... ...."

Does this guy know by just my situation just by looking at me ...? I was dumbfounded by what Koigasaki said as if she already know everything.

"What, what happened this time?"

..... apparently I can't seem to be able to hide anything from this person.

I told Koigasaki how the brother of Hasegawa and I were acquaintances, how I learned Hasegawa and her brother are not doing well.

Because I thought that speaking about Hasegawa's past was bad, I did not tell her about the event that triggered the separation Hasegawa and Mr. Yamamotoand about the fact that the parents of Hasegawa were divorced. For one thing, Koigasaki did not even asked me.

11 .....11

After listening to my story with serious expression, Koigasaki began to worry

after making a difficult face.

"Well I will not ask in detail but ... Hasegawa's older brother regrets the incident that caused their separation ... Even now, he wants to reconcile ...?"

"Well ... he himself said that he just wants to apologize ... ... but I think that he would like to make it up with her as well. He thinks about Hasegawa, cares as much as to come to see het at the cultural festival.

"Yeah ... but Hasegawa rejects her brother and tells me that he is an "unrelated person"..."

"Oh ...It's a problem between families, so I think that it's bad to meddle in ... but I can't do that at the same time ... ... I wonder what I should do ..."

"Well ...."

Koigasaki is thinking with a difficult expression.

"Hey ... ... What do you think I should do?"

"Why do you ask me for an opinion!"

Koigasaki said it with a shameful and confused expression.

..... No, I definitely can't think of anything if it is just me. I haven't been able to realize it until now ..... I always relied on her for times like these. I have to depend on her to try solve problems ... I'm pathetic.

"I do not know the details, so I can't say anything ..."

"Well, that's ... it's ... ...."

It is hard for me to tell Koigasaki detailed information, but maybe there is a degree .....

".....However....."

Koigasaki starts talking slowly while thinking.

"I do not know the feelings of Hasegawa, but ... if that was me ... I can't bear such a situation ... I also quarrel with my sister Yuzu ... but I still love her ... "

"... Koigasaki ....."

... She always fights with me but ... I think my sister Akari is also important to

me.

Unlike Hasegawa and Yamamoto, even after I quarrel with her and misunderstand her, if wehaven't met after many years... I do not want to admit it much, but I will be lonely. I may not be able to bear it.

"Hasegawa ... between a brother and sister,"I do not care about people who are not related to me anymore"... ... such loneliness ...."

## Part 23

Does Hasegawa feel like me and Koigasaki when you think of your brother? When you were an elementary school student, they were very close until the case of the doujinshi happened.

She has this attitude to keep avoiding her older brother. Looks like she doesn't consider that she has an "older brother" anymore as they "are not related" anymore. Based on that, it still seems that Hasegawa can't forgive her brother.

"If I quarrel with my sister Yuzu, even if it's super bitter, I will actually forget it when we talk face to face ... I can forgive anything ... Brothers ..... that kind of thing is it not there ...?

Even if they fight, if they were brothers, after they talk face to face, they will forgive .....

Even if I fight with my sister indeed, even if we quarrel, I always think my heart that "it is Akari so it's OK", I will forgive you anyway.

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..... Maybe, Hasegawa ... ....
"I will do it ..."
I was determined.
"Huh?"
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"... Even if there is a possibility that Hasegawa would dislike me for doing this ... but still I think this is better than not doing anything ..."

Although it may seem boastful in my part ... ... even though "Hasegawa might dislike me" for this, I still want to manage this situation. I myself hated this situation and I had no choice. I cannot pretend that I have nothing to do with this. Yamamoto still thinks about Hasegawa now. Even Hasegawa, who used to like her older brother in the past, might really want to make up with him. If I can, I would like to repair the relationship between the two.

OK, I decided. I will have Hasegawa and Yamamoto meet tomorrow.

Mr. Yamamoto should have many things to say to Hasegawa.

If Yamamoto apologizes to Hasegawa and they can talk properly ... ... as Koigasaki, "If you talk face to face, you can forgive". I would like to bet on that one possibility.

But, if I do that, there is a possibility that I want to hurt Hasegawa ...

"Hahaha .... In the event that Hasegawa will hate me ... please comfort me."

I said such a thing to Koigasaki jokingly.

"... Huh ... Comfort ... ... you, what do you intend to do with me!?"

However, I am stunned by seeing Koigasaki 's response. She suddenly turned her face and was red with anger.

"What ... What I mean is ... please cheer me up, or give me words of comfort properly ... ...."

Why on earth did you suddenly get angry?

"Oh!? ... ... Ah, ah ... ... that ... yeah ... well ...!"

Koigasaki had a bright red face, with a bitter smile on his face. What on earth is she thinking right now?

"... Well, I imagine what you are trying to accomplish but generally ... whatever you do, definitely be nice while doing it!"

Koigasaki has been bashfully knocking on my shoulder.

"... Ah ... oh ... that's right!"

With the words of Koigasaki, I felt somewhat positive. To be honest, I am also afraid that things might not go well and I would be hated by Hasegawa for it ...

but I do not think so. I hope it works. Yes, that's the only outcome. "Yosh! I will do it! I will definitely do it!!" I got up from the bench and cheered myself. Koigasaki struck my shoulder harder, causing some pain while pushed the feeling that I should try harder. Oh, I was cheered again by Koigasaki ... .... Koigasaki ... You are amazing. After all, you have power that I do not have. Always you helped me up when I was feeling down. ..... I am glad I have this agreement with Koigasaki .... Again, I thought of such a thing. As we left the park and return home ... Koigasaki told me something that I do not know of again. "Well ... ...." "Ah?" "Since you and I have an agreement relationship ... ... I know I can't say such a thing ..." Koigasaki has a subtle look. "What?" "So ... ... forget what I say for now, forget everything!" ".... Ha?" The conditions are too unilateral. "If ... ... about you?" Koigasaki suffocated as if he decided something, and breathed lightly, "If..... a very gentle, super cute child who is not known to you ... If she confesses to you ... what would you do?"

"....?"

I became flabbergasted at the question of Koigasaki.

This question, I do not understand the reason .....

"So, that .... What would you do? Please answer, please!"

I do not know the intent of her question at all, but until I answer Koigasaki, she is going to keep asking so I forcibly rotate my head and imagine it.

If a gentle and cute child confessed to me ... ...?

...... First thing I thought was .... "Won't happen to me" ....

"... How about it ...?"

But I thought she would not accept if I answered that, so I think about itcarefully and then start talking.

"Well <u>Bobobelmonte</u> (<u>talk</u>) 12:37, 29 July 2017 (CEST) ........... If such a convenient development ever took place ... even if I am full in my headabout Hasegawa now, I am thinking that I will accept and go out with that girl ... .... Hey?"

Since I answered that I will go out with that girl ... What will happen your effort since the beginning? Won't it become completely meaningless?

Koigasaki ... .... I felt like she brightened for a moment after hearing my words. "...Oh it that so......" After saying, she diverts her eyes from me.

".....Huh?"

I was surprised at that reaction Koigasaki, I look at her face again.

".... Well it's just a "what if" question so you do not have to worry about that thing seriously!"

After Koigasaki says so, she started beating my shoulder again, making stronger sounds than before.

"What is it ...!? What is it !?"

The expression of Koigasaki was returning to original.

..... I was wondering what is the expression on her face before .....?

"... Then, Kashiwada! See you tomorrow!"

"eh.....!?"

Although we haven't arrived at the station yet, she suddenly told me

goodbye, and ran away. ..... Well, what was that ...?

While puzzled about the attitude of Koigasaki, I went home.

## **Chapter 4**

The next day, the second day of the cultural festival has arrived.

I wake up in the morning and check my cell phone.

I have received an email from Yamamoto.

I sent an e - mail to Mr. Yamamoto after returning home yesterday night.

"Subject: Untitled

Body: Thank you very much for talking with us today. There is something I'd like to talk about at the cultural festival tomorrow, so can you come if you are convenient? I do not mind the time, but the play of our class will start at the gymnasium at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. I would be happy if you can come and see Midori's performance. "

I had given up halfway because the reply did not arrive during the day ... ... But it seems that there was a reply early morning today. I rush and open my email.

"Subject: Good morning.

Body: Kashiwada, thank you for yesterday. Thank you for your invitation although if I come ... However, I am prepared to be disliked by Midori, so I will disturb your cultural festival today (laugh). Thank you for telling me the time the drama will start. It's a big help to me, thank you."

I reply to Mr. Yamamoto,

"Thank you, let us have a little time together after the play," I then sent an e-mail to Hasegawa.

"Subject: Good Morning!

Full Text: Thank you for your performance in the cultural festival yesterday! Let 's do our best today on the second day too! Do you have a little free time after the play today? There is something I want to talk about a bit ... ... "

While I am preparing to go to school, a reply came from Hasegawa.

"Subject: Re: Good Morning!

Body: OK. Let's do our best today. "

I gently grasped my chest.

However, I must not worry about this now. We must really do our best today.

Suddenly, I remembered something. Yesterday, Koigasaki said, "Murasaki may come to the cultural festival today."

Recently I had no chance to talk with Murasaki or Koigasaki on Skype; apparently, Koigasaki, Murasaki, Sakurai is using a new communication app "LINE". I haven't used this yet, but apparently the app "LINE" is popular among smartphone users now.... you can interact using e-mail or phone for free. It is still new to me. I was told that I should get the app by Koigasaki, but I am not sure because I do not know it well.

It seems that Murasaki may come to the cultural festival as she said on "LINE". Although she wanted to come, the date seemed to be just before the doujinshi manuscript deadline, and she was deciding whether to come depending on the progress of the manuscript.

..... I met Murasaki since last week's club event.

At that time, after she got drunk, she came all over with me at the Okonomiyaki's toilet ... .... Even when I remember now ... I get excited and embarrassed. Could it be possible for me to face her today calmly?

Of course, if she comes to the cultural festival today ...

I arrive at school and we finished the morning home room.

Today's class play was different from yesterday's performance time and it was supposed to be from 2 o'clock PM. It's free until that time.

"Kashii Good Morning!"

When I go out of the classroom to the corridor, I meet Suzuki in front of class A.

Today I made a promise with Suzuki to go around the cultural festival.

"I saw the play of Kashii's class yesterday! It was amazing OK!"

"Eeehhh, seriously?"

I did not notice that Suzuki was also watching ... ....

"Oh, I also saw your live performance yesterday."

"Oh, Kashii came! I noticed you from the stage!"

While we are walking in the corridor, we continue talking.

"It was a great success, the performance was good!"

As I said, I remembered that I said the same thing to Koigasaki yesterday. I can say the same thing to Suzuki ....

"Is that so!? ... ... What song did you think is the best?"

".....eh!?"

I am perplexed by the unexpected question. I did not expect the question.

I remember yesterday's live performance. The trendy J pop first song ...... was a good song in general and Suzuki's song was also good, but honestly not in the genre of my favorite songs ... .... Both of the songs that Suzuki sang and the third song sung by Koigasaki were both very good. Both were good songs so I can't say which is better. But since Suzuki did not do the vocals for the third song, if you say that the third song was the best, I feel like being rude to this guy.

"Well ... well, which one was good... ... the second song probably ..."

I answered after desperately considering the best action for my friend.

"Seriously!?"

Suzuki is amazed at my answer.

"Yeah, probably that song was the one you composed? I didn't know you also

compose songs ... That was a song of love about a 2D character wasn't it?

I asked Suzuki in a little worried voice. Suzuki opened his eyes and poked me.

"........... Kan — Tsu! So I was understood!? You actually understood ... even though you heard it just once!"

He told me with excitement. Oh yeah, the girl fans of the light music club are mostly not Otakus, I guess they would not understand.

"No ... ... Kashii is really amazing! You are really different from others!

I guess that's because I am an otaku .... As Suzuki seemed to be deeply impressed, for the time being, the choices I made seemed to be correct.

Then, I went to see the exhibitions and the girls with Suzuki.

I wondered if Suzuki and Koigasaki's relationship are progressing or not. I was concerned what Suzuki thought about Koigasaki; I was wondering whether to ask him now ... somehow, I can't seem to bear to know the answer to that. Perhaps ... I do not want to admit it, but I am afraid ... I am afraid to know the truth. After going around the school, we became hungry and decided to enter a coffee shop.

"Oh, I have something to report to Kashii!"

After asking for sweets and drinks at the coffee shop, Suzuki remembered something and suddenly made a loud voice.

```
"Report.....?"
```

Well, maybe that is ......

"Is it about the confession of Koigasaki ~!"......

No, no .... Koigasaki did not say anything yesterday, and is it too early for anything to happen today... ....

"I knew the culprit!"

"The culprit ... ...?"

I have a question mark on the remark of Suzuki which I don't understand.

"No ...It is rude for me to say "culprit" .... Look, I was wondering who got me the book from my favorite circle in summer comiket that came together with a together with a bunch of sketches - I think I know who was the person that gave them to me! "

"eh.....!?"

Suzuki is saying he got his doujinshi from by his favorite coterie writer in comiket ...... Koigasaki also got Murasaki to draw some sketches with the comic. Although the comic was put on top of Suzuki's desk, the person who gave it to him forgot to write his name in the letter included with the comic so Suzuki wasn't sure who gave him the comic.

If that is the case ... ...?

"Before our live performance yesterday, Koigasaki had reviewed the lyrics of the song for the last time. Koigasaki wrote down the lyrics in a piece of paper. When I saw it, her writing style was very similar with the letter that came with the comic – the style and the penmanship is just like those in the letter!"

Suzuki confirmed it with a excitement.

Are you serious...... Did Suzuki finally understood that it was Koigasaki ...?

Even so, this way of getting around ... ... Is this what Koigasaki wanted? She said that "I want to be known in a more natural way" when I said "When will you confess to Suzuki?" I thought that this is too much dancing around ... ....

But, Koigasaki, when we came back together yesterday, did not say anything ... Why? She didn't ask me if I would like to give the comic book over or how she should hand the comic book over or let me cooperate in any other way ... ... why didn't she say anything?

Maybe ... She doesn't want me to know .....? Maybe Koigasaki and Suzuki are already getting along well while I have not made any progress with Hasegawa so ... I wonder if I am bad and she can't say it?

So I got another doubt.

Wasn't it me who gave the information about Suzuki's favorite doujin to Koigasaki ... ... Did Koigasaki tell Suzuki it was me who told her? If she told him,

Suzuki would have said to me, "Kashii, you already knew who gave the comic to me but you didn't tell me!" I was in a position where I could be blamed, which could be somewhat inconvenient to me. Suzuki, for the moment, I do not feel like saying anything ....

"That ... was ..."

I was disappointed, but I thought that even if I kept silent for a long time I thought I might also be suspected, so for the time being, I strike a counterattack.

"I am also very surprised ~! Koigasaki went so see my Mixi"

"Eh ..... Mixi !?"

I responded to his sudden words.

"Oh yeah, I have a Mik account and so has Kashii. I wrote on my Mik diary that "I want a new book from summer comiket but I can't go". My friends can see my diary since its open to the public so Kashii probably also read my diary before summer comiket."

Mixi ...... I see, that person, did that something like that ...? When I remember well, it is the summer comiket when Koigasaki joined my Mik list ... so that gives an impression that provides proof of Suzuki's theory ... Suzuki, of course, did not know anything.

Koigasaki ... did this so that I could not be accused by Suzuki ... how devious of her ....

"I was scared, I was checking my diary while I did not know"

Suzuki's words, I think about for a moment.

Certainly, when someone is checking my Mixi who is not my Mik list ... it could be a stalker. Moreover, after reading the diary without permission, I will purchase what he wanted there without permission .... In order to protect me, Koigasaki acted like she was that stalker.

Suzuki, what will you think now that that you know it was Koigasaki?

With this, I think that the impression of Suzuki against Koigasaki will get worse

... ....

"Well, that's right ..... Suzuki ... what do you think of that ... about that ..."

"Of course I am glad that she bought me a new book, and even if I was actually able to buy it, I may not be able to get the sketches that came from the artist herself! I am happy! I have to repay Koigasaki."

Suzuki answered with an innocent smile on his face.

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"Oh, ah ... oh, that's right ... ..."
```

Suzuki doesn't seem to mind the matter of Koigasaki reading his diary without permission. Looking at that situation I was relieved in my heart. ..... He was a really nice guy who did not care about the little things ....

"It is surprising that such a girlish girl will go to summer comiket! After our live performance in yesterday's Cultural Festival, while we were having lunch in a vacant classroom, Koigasaki and I talked about the story of Riku Kyono, the story of my favorite circle Takashi Kisakazaki; I have done the cosplay of Riku Kyono! Also, she seemed to have been acquainted with the writer in my favorite circle while she was buying the book in summer comiket ~ I'm seriously envious! It was fun to talk to her because there is no Otaku in the light music club."

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"Huh ......? ...... Hey ..."
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I got excited with his story ....

Koigasaki never told me yesterday that, "I delivered the doujinshi to Suzuki". In addition, she never said anything about "Suzuki and I talked about Otaku subjects during lunch". How is that......

What is with this person .... Why are not you telling me anything when we have such an agreement?

Thinking that far, I noticed.

Yesterday, when I was preoccupied with Hasegawa and Yamamoto, Koigasaki noticed that I have an "awful melancholic aura". To me in such a state ... It is hard for me to notice your progress with Suzuki.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Well, no problem, thankfully!"

<sup>&</sup>quot;.....eh?" To Suzuki who answered this, I was surprised.

```
"... Kashii, it's okay, your face is getting stiff ...."

"Oh ... ... sorry...."
```

Setting aside the fact that Koigasaki did not say anything to me yesterday .... Contrary to the hardships of Koigasaki, the relationship between the two who had not been able to make much progress until now suddenly made a big leap in progress. Suzuki, who spoke little with Koigasaki before, describes talking with Koigasaki as "I was excited" and "I enjoyed talking with her."

Ohl should be more ... ... I should be happy with this ... Why do I feel so complicated ... ....

After leaving the coffee shop, Suzuki and I are discussing the pamphlet as to where we should go next ... ....

"Arya! Suzuki!"

Suddenly, about 4 boys ran towards us. I wonder what the emergency is for them to run like that.

"Who are they?"

"The guys in my class ..."

Suzuki also answered my question as he was also surprised.

"We were looking for you! Please help with the cafe!"

"Err, I finished my duty yesterday,"

"There is no customer at all! Thanks to you, yesterday there was a lot of women guests .... Now, no one is coming!"

While explaining desperately, the boys positioned themselves on both sides of Suzuki ..... Suzuki's arms were firmly grabbed, securing him.

"Eh! I still haven't been around the festival much!"

Suzuki resists with dissatisfaction.

"What is your class ... what on earth are you doing?"

"Butler cafe ....."

With Suzuki's reply, I was very convinced.

Indeed ... ... Is it natural for female customers to be attracted to a café where food is served by a Suzuki butler who is handsome ... ....

"I hate you guys<u>Bobobelmonte</u> (<u>talk</u>) 12:38, 29 July 2017 (CEST)! I do not want to work <u>Bobobelmonte</u> (<u>talk</u>) 12:38, 29 July 2017 (CEST)!"

Resistance was futile, Suzuki was dragged by his classmates.

"Do your best! ..."

I was cheering with sympathy for Suzuki who is gradually moving farther away.

I am left behind alone in the hallway.

Again ... ... I am alone ... ....

I think there will still be time before the class play today in the afternoon ... I think. I take my cell phone and check the time.

There is one mail. In a hurry, I open it ....

"From: Ms. Murasaki

Subject: Cultural festival cheers for good work ♪

Body text: I came (^ o ^) J

... ... Did you come? I mean, you came to a cultural festival ...?

When I looked closer, it seems that the mail has also been sent also to Koigasaki and Sakurai at the same time.

".....eh!?"

I am surprised to see the reception time of the mail.

I received it more than an hour ago. I did not notice at all .....!

I hurriedly replied.

"Sorry, I just noticed my mail (T\_T). Where are you now? Are you still there? "

A reply came soon.

"I am in 2nd year C-class cafe now \$\cdot\"

2nd year C class cafe ... ... So it is not the coffee shop of Suzuki's class, but the

coffee shop I went with Sakurai yesterday ... ....

"I am going there now! "I replied and headed there right away.

When I arrived at a coffee shop of class 2C, Murasaki and Koigasaki were drinking tea.

"Oh, Kashiwada-san, Hello ♪"

"Hello ... ...."

I went to the table where they were sitting.

"You're too late ~"

Looking at the face of Koigasaki who complained ..... I remember Suzuki's story. The matter of the doujinshi, the talk they had while eating lunch ....

"What?"

Because I was silent and looking at the face of Koigasaki, Koigasaki seemed suspicious and was staring at me.

Tentatively, with Murasaki here, I can't talk .... In this case, I will talk only when it is just the 2 of us ....

"Azuki was also here until a while ago but left because she has class duty."

"Oh, is that so ...?"

"Well, I have to work soon for the broadcasting committee."

Koigasaki says while looking at her watch.

"Where have you been?"

"A haunted mansion, we went around a lot \( \infty \) Momo and Azuki accompanied me ..."

Murasaki answers my question. After having a short conversation, Momo left the coffee shop later.

"... Well, then I will go Murasaki, thank you for coming!"

"No, please do your best at work!" Koigasaki said goodbye then went to work for the broadcast committee. " ..... ..... I was alone with Murasaki ... .... For a moment, I remembered what happened when she was drunk the last time; I blushed and in a hurry, I bowed my head. "Oh ... ... Is this about the manuscript progress?" I asked as pretty natural as possible. I think that it is natural for her to come today to check on the manuscript, so is it ok for me to ask about it? II II ".....eh!?" However, Murasaki did not answer the question. "Well, maybe ... ... is not it okay ... ....?" "No, no ... that's not it?" "Why are you smiling!" You didn't come for the manuscript? Thankfully, I am a bit worried ... .... "Okay, today I decided to forget about the manuscript!" I do not know exactly what is "okay", but since she's like that, I will not talk about the manuscript anymore ... "Kashiwada-san, are you free after this?" "Ah, yes, I am going to our class play in the afternoon, but before that I am free."

"Oh, you are starring in Snow White, aren't you? I heard it from Momo! I am looking forward to it \$\infty\$"

Wow ... I can't let Murasaki see me in that costume .... I can't let Murasaki see me in that abomination ... ....

"Mr. Kashiwada, do you have somewhere you want to go to?"

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"Huh ... um ..."
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Is it possible to go see where Sakurai is working? If I go to the prison cafe that is the project of 1-D ...? But I do not want Murasaki to think that "I want to see girls in miniska police costumes" ... ....

```
"Ah! I want to go here!"
```

Murasaki pointed me to the brochure and showed it. It was the "Halloween Masquerade Photography Hall".

"Kashiwada-san, isn't Halloween tomorrow?"

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"Oh, that's right ... ..."
```

Because Halloween is an event that is not popular here ...

"Let's enjoy Halloween even with just fooling around in costumes."

"OK."

Murasaki and I went to the classroom doing the "Halloween costume photo gallery" as shown in the pamphlet.

When we entered the classroom, some other guests were already taking pictures in costumes. I feel like doing cosplay rather than wearing a costume ......The two girls were wearing maid dresses.

Every student in the classroom is also cosplaying. Basically girls are in cute maid uniforms, boys are wearing butler costumes.

"Welcome ~! Please choose your favorite costumes here!"

The student clerk was handed over a paper where photographs of the costumes were listed.

"Kashiwada-san, what do you want me to wear?"

```
"Oh .....! Oh, whatever ... ...."
```

As expected, I did not have the courage to request the costume I would like Murasaki to wear. Well, if she does cosplay, I'm looking forward to her costume .... Oh, but do I also have to do cosplay?

<sup>&</sup>quot;Huh?"

Murasaki did not take my permission and conveyed her request to the person in charge. What on earth did she choose?

"Well, here is the place for the lady; the men please change their clothes here."

A costume was handed over by the person in charge and we were guided into the changing rooms (partitioned by screen) inside the classroom.

After I wore the costume inside the simple changing room ... ....

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".... Vampire ... ...?"
```

It was a vampire costume with a black front, red linings, frilled cloth and a red vest .....

That's right. Murasaki wanted costumes for Halloween. Well, it is better than being made to wear a strange costume or a girl costume. Such costumes may suit handsome guys but it won't suit me ....

After changing clothes, I got out of the changing room. No Murasaki yet.

11 .....11

I see many girls in cosplay inside the classroom.

What I am looking at now ... A girl in a China dress with a long slit and a girl in a bunny suit. There are even costumes with high degree of exposure. To be honest, I am troubled where to look.

Other girls were wearing sailor uniforms and cheerleaders; most everyone was cosplaying.

"That's cute!"

"Thank you very much"

Boys from other schools (because of their different uniform) are calling out to girls cosplaying. Certainly, school girls in cosplay is going to be an eye candy ... .... what am I saying ... ....

"Mr. Kashiwada, I kept you waiting ↓"
"... ...!"

Murasaki came out from the changing room.

At that moment, the gaze of the students in the classroom gathers at once in her.

"Ooooooo!"

The boys who were recently calling out to the girl students raised their voices when they saw Murasaki's appearance.

II ....II

No wonder ... .... Murasaki who cosplayed before was undoubtedly more attractive than any high school girls in this classroom. And I was also mesmerized.

She was dressed in a small devil style cosplay costume. It is a small mini skirt's devil style dress, it even came with a devil tail and a stick feather. On her legs ...... fixed stockings to the thigh a with sexy garter belt. Her white thigh which is seen between the mini skirt and stocking is dazzling.

Because her charms has combined with the costume's charm ..... Her small devil figure was oddly more exquisite than her casual clothes that she wore here.

"The skirt is shorter than I thought .... It's embarrassing ... I am worried ...."

Murasaki holds down the short skirt by her hand, and has a shy smiling face. She doesn't look her age .... she looks very young ... ....

"Wow, she's cute!?"

"Yeba, I pretty much like that ... ...."

"She is not from this school!"

All the boys, including those from the other schools, are talking about Murasaki and getting excited. I heard their loud voices. Murasaki also heard, but she acts as through she hasn't heard a thing.

"The vampire appearance of Mr. Kashiwada, it looks nice as I thought!"

While I was not able to say anything because Murasaki is too attractive, she has started praisingmy cosplay costume. Ohhh please stop it ... ... the gazes from the surrounding boys hurt ... .... "Why is such a cute girl with such a guy?" I heard their complaints ....

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"Well then, I will take photos!"
```

The student from the staff pointed his camera to us.

"Huh **√**"

"[?"

At that moment, Murasaki came up to my arms, so I blushed instantly.

"Yes, cheese!"

After the photo shoot, we switched back to our uniforms. The pictures were printed quickly.

"Thank you!"

A picture is handed to me and Murasaki each. There was a dusky vampire, blushing and stiff, and a beautiful little devil.

"Fuh ... ... It's fun to go to a cultural festival ♪ I feel like I returned to being a high school student and I am getting excited!."

While we were walking in the corridor after the "Halloween Masquerade Photography Hall", Murasaki told me her happy thoughts.

I suddenly stopped and gazed at her face.

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".....? What is it ...??"
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"Weren't you co-educated? ... What's with the "I wanted to spend such a high school life ....."

While staring at her face, I ask her meaning.

"Oh ..... ah ... ... Do you remember Murasaki went to an all-girl school?"

"Well, I remember."

"Don't you think the cultural festival of an all-girl school is different in a co-ed school?"

"Well ... the cultural festival itself may not change that much"

It isn't much different ... ....So what did she mean by "I wanted to spend such a high school life"?

"Mr. Kashiwada, do you want to go someplace?"

"Well ... ... then how about this"independent film"?"

When I checked the screening time of the movie written in the pamphlet, it was just about to start so I tried to propose it.

"Oh, that's nice ☐ If I see a movie that high-school students made, my motivation for creation seems to increase!"

Murasaki agreed, so we headed to the audio-visual room where the "independent film" is shown.

I was surprised when we entered the audio-visual room. There was almost no customer. Apart from us, there is only a group of 3 girls sitting. I do not know if it is just for this screening or the film is really not popular ... ....

So, it is bad as a dark haunted house .... Light is completely shielded from the window.

Yabu ..... "Why is it so dark here? What do you think, Murasaki ... ...."

"I am getting excited and it is darker than I thought!"

"What!?"

Murasaki made an incredible remark.

Looking at how surprised I am, Murasaki held her mouth with her hand.

"Oh! I am sorry, I made a mistake ...It is darker than I thought and I am afraid!"

"What mistake is it!?"

While desperately asking, I sat down to the chair in the corner.

"Ah ... I am relieved, even though it is dark ... ... I will not be attacked since I am in school ... ...!"

"What on earth are you saying?!"

Then if it was not a school ... ....? What are you expecting me to do?

As I was thinking about these strange statements, I was saved as the movie started.

The movie ... ... to be honest ... ... wasn't bad, but I felt bored.

As a genre, it probably comes under "romance". It is about a high school male and female student growing into love ... ... No, I don't think I can watch .... because of the poor performance. Since the cast was high school students who has no experience in acting, it can't be helped ... .... The dialogues are bad; the pacing is abrupt ... ... which is probably why it has few customers. I was definitely getting sleepy despite sitting next to Murasaki in the dark.

"..... ????"

Suddenly Murasaki's hand was placed on my thigh. Rather than being placed, the expression of falling ... ... may be closer.

What ... What are you doing?! Is she inviting me? I get into a state of confusion. I told you I will not attack you at school earlier ... ... what now!

However, the next moment ...... I thought I heard her voice and now her head falls on my shoulder. She is facing upwards while shaking softly.

" .....

She seems to be asleep as she has closed her eyes.

For a moment I doubted and that she was pretending to sleep... She seems to be sound asleep with no waking up in the near future.

By the way, it seems she has been busy before coming here to the cultural festival.... I bet he was in a state of lack of sleep.

While I remembered Murasaki 's feeling on the shoulder, I was desperately

trying not to move so as not to disturb her sleep as much as possible until the end of the movie.

"I'm sorry ... I just fell asleep ... ... did you wake me up, Mr. Kashiwada?"

"No, no ... that's not true!"

She woke up at the end of the movie and doesn't seem to remember leaning on me.

It is awkward, but since I didn't want Murasaki to be disturbed, I decided not to mention her leaning on me while sleeping ... ....

"I was rude to the students who produced the movie ... ...."

She seems to be a bit depressed, while holding down her voice and murmuring.

"Were you tired because of the manuscript? Are you OK?"

Although I am happy about the fact that she came to our cultural festival even though she is in such a state, I am still worried.

"... Kashiwada-san is kind, it is okay now. I was tired a bit when I fell asleep."

Murasaki laughed a little shyly.

"Ah, let's go the fair Kashiwada!"

Murasaki raised a fun voice as we walked through the corridor, leaving the audio-visual room.

"Well ~ ... let's go."

When we entered the classroom where the signboard "fairy tale" was listed, the inside of the classroom was divided into a ring-throw space and a shooting space.

"Ring throw and shooting, both are a hundred yen each! What do you want to play?!"

I speak to the student in charge.

I decided to do the ring-throw.

After paying, three rings were handed over. The prizes are sweets and stuffed

animals and were lined up on the front table about two meters away. Why are there such expensive prizes? "Ah! I wanted that prize!" Looking at the prizes, Murasaki said. Alright ah ha ha, you want to play for the prizes! I was full of spirit and threw the ring towards the pylons. ...... I brilliantly failed. I tried aiming three times, but I failed all of it. Tried it, the rings did not fly in the direction I expected, it was unexpectedly difficult. "Kashiwada-san, I'm glad for you to play a game for me ..." "No, I'm sorry I can't get it ..." Murasaki also threw the rings about three times, but also failed. "If there is no hits, please prepare a consolation prize for women only!" For women only..... How unfair ... .... "Consolation prize is Pocky!" The student in charge gave a Pocky ... ... to Murasaki. "Thank you very much!" As we left the classroom, Murasaki gazed at the Pocky. "You can't eat a whole box of Pocky, right?" "Because it's impossible for me ..... Let's eat half each ↓" Murasaki said such a thing with a smile as if this was something she planned. "eh....." The moment when I tried to say something ..... Murasaki placed a chocolate Pocky in my mouth ... "What?!" I got a Pocky in my mouth and I can't talk anything ... ....

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Puff
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"..... !?"
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Murasaki ... .... bit the other half of the Pocky which is still in my mouth.

What is this Pocky game state?!

Well, even though we are in the hallway, fortunately, there are not many people around ....

While I was in a state of confusion, Murasaki moved her face up and down while biting the Pocky; she made sounds while munching the Pocky.

The Pocky has cracked about a centimeter from Murasaki where she bit. The part with chocolate was in my mouth, the other part was bitten off by Murasaki.

```
"Oh ... I could not get half at all ... Sorry ..."
```

While lightly holding the mouth that is munching Pocky with her hand, she says lightly.

I wanted to say something but because the chocolate part of Pocky is still in my mouth, I can't open my mouth. I quickly chewed and swallowed my part of the Pocky.

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"What ... what on earth are you doing?"
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"Because this is only way to get half a Pocky without holding it; if you hold the part with chocolate in your hand, won't your hand be smeared with chocolate?"

Murasaki placed her index finger to her mouth and winked towards me.

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"No, that's wrong ..."
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<sup>&</sup>quot;Please do not get so angry."

<sup>&</sup>quot;No, I'm not angry ... but ..."

<sup>&</sup>quot;But why is your face red?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;I am embarrassed, right?"

It's embarrassing to say that!

I became hot with this conversation.

"Oh ... so that was it .... But ... I thought you are embarrassed ... Because we ... were kissing J"

"..... Eeeeeeeeeee!"

What is it!? Although it is a first-eared!?

"Besides, I also love long hot nights ..."

"Ha ha ha!"

I was surprised at the momentum that Pocky I swallowed is about to return from my stomach.

Oh ... ... maybe the "hot night" she is talking about was when I was her assistant when she was doing a doujinshi? It certainly was hot ... ... (in the sense of being a scam).

"Wait a moment ... ... I grasped the hot night, but before ... ... kiss, what is it ...?"

There is no way to remember that at all! When I stayed at Murasaki's house, did I unconsciously do such a thing ...?

"Eh? Have you forgotten? I took your first kiss ... ...."

"Ohhhhhhhhhhhhhhh ... Well, I do not remember!?"

Looking at the situation, I am panicking but she is happy with a small devilish smile. Damn it, she is having a lot of fun ... .... However, I do not remember anything.

"... Hey, remember the first time we met in summer comiket at my circle's space ..."

"What? In a circle space ...?"

I desperately remember what happened when I first met Murasaki in the summer. Well, certainly, I was with her in the circle space, talking with a couple of others ... ....

```
".....Ah!!"
  Now I remembered ... .... I drank from Murasaki's bottle of drinking tea ... ....
  "I certainly did ...."
  "Oh, did you finally remember?"
  "Yes ... ... the indirect kiss ... ...."
  I was given a bottle of tea by Murasaki, I drank it without knowing she already
drank from it so I inevitably made an indirect kiss.
 To my remarks, Murasaki laughed happily. I can't say anything while blushing.
Kissing ... So that is what she meant!
  Oh, my face got red in in the end ... ....
  Really Murasaki is a small devil by nature and can easily swing a guy ..... I
thought so far then I suddenly remembered.
  Murasaki is in fact, a lady who is not accustomed to men at all ... that is what
Murasaki's friend Nagase told me.
 I still can't believe it ..... but I don't think Nagase will lie.
  If that story is true ..... today, is she is trying hard to overcome her shyness
with men...?
  "Next, where we are going ... ...."
  Lasked her.
  "To the fortunetelling! What do you say!?"
  "11"
  I seemed to pick up the voices of spite from the girls near us.
  What is this deja vu ...!?
  Class 2-A fortuneteller ... ... It is different from when I was with Sakurai
yesterday ... ....
  "Mr. Kashiwada, fortune telling!"
  Murasaki makes her eyes shine. ..... Why do girls like fortune telling so much?
```

"Murasaki, are you interested? ..."

"Wow! I recently have a bit of fortune telling ~ \( \subseteq \)"

"Please come inside!"

My opinion was ignored and we were guided by the girl students to the fortunetelling center.

"Kashiwada-san ... ... Maybe you hate fortunetelling?"

Because I had a weak face, Murasaki felt distressed.

"No, no! That's not it!"

In a hurry, I smiled and denied it.

Actually, I do not dislike fortunetelling.

Just ... ... For two consecutive days, I went to a fortune teller with a different girl. I have complicated feelings for myself ...

After entering the classroom of "Fortune Telling House", of course, like yesterday, the space is divided into "Tarot fortune telling", "birthday fortune telling", "hand divination fortune" ... as well as yesterday, only the desk for "birthday fortunetelling"have no customers.

"Birthday fortunetelling", it's so unpopular ...

"Here, please come here!"

Sure enough, we were guided to the vacant "birthday fortune" desk. Wait a moment ... ... No way ... ....

"1?"

My prediction came true.

The student fortune teller for "birthday fortune telling" was the same female student as yesterday.

The student was also surprised more than me. When she saw my face, her brows were wrinkled and became scary while looking at me and Murasaki who is sitting next to me.

"Why, what ..."

The fortuneteller muttered softly. There was something else but I did not hear anything else as I was more concerned about my situation.

... .... Oh yeah, the same student came in for two consecutive days... and coming with a different girl from yesterday ... certainly she will be suspicious. Moreover, this fortuneteller had misunderstood that Sakurai and I were a couple ... my head hurts ... .... I felt awkward and looked down.

"Well then, please ... please write your full name and birth date on this paper"

The fortuneteller student looked like she was not hiding the fact that she was upset and presented the papers just like yesterday. After I finish writing my date of birth, I stealthily looked at Murasaki's hand. She was born on April 24 ... ... I certainly thought she was a sophomore at university, so if I calculate ... she is already twenty years old.

I passed the paper that I finished to the fortuneteller's student.

"Huh, it's fun, is it not ~ **√**"

Murasaki is looking forward to the result of fortune telling without knowing the awkwardness between the fortune teller and me. The fortuneteller's student has entered our birthday into the keyboard with the same handgesture as yesterday. ..... I expected to hear the exact same results ....

"Yes, then first ... ... for the guy ... ...."

The fortuneteller student called me "boyfriend" yesterday, but today she can't seem to be able to do so.

"... The basic character of Mr. Naoki Kashiwada is that he is gentle and friendly, he doesn't have any prejudice or repulsive heart, he is indecisive and stubborn but constant and enthusiastic. He is shy and easily intimidated and also but poor at socializing but easy to get along with. He is serious but easily tempted. He is usually discreet and has a passive personality."

The fortuneteller spoke swiftly while telling the exact results yesterday. Is it me or did the way you read that was different from yesterday? I heard it yesterday, didn't I?

"Oh ~ You have nailed it!"

"Really!?"

I replied to the unexpected reaction by Murasaki.

I was also told by Sakurai that the result is accurate to her as well .... After all, she saw my personality, is this the result of this fortunetelling? Well, it's a subtle feeling just because I am not that happy....

When I looked, the fortuneteller student was staring at me. I diverted my eyes immediately.

..... This person totally misunderstood me as a two-timer!

It seems to her that I am playing with a pair of pretty girls while being a plain, unclean man ... ....

"Next is Love Love"

The fortuneteller's student reads the next item. ..... Is something going on in her mind?

"The women around him will never leave, and there are many cases where he is often favored."

After reading, the student looked at my face as if she had noticed something. No way ... ... "The results are very accurate!" Is that what she is thinking ...? I just happened to come to the fortune telling with a different girl but I'm not dating any of them ... I wonder how I can explain it to her ........

"What!?"

What are you talking about, Murasaki?

"Well then ... ... Nakagawa Murasaki"

Nakagawa Murasaki ...... I heard Murasaki's real name, I suddenly remember. When she got drunk at Okonomiyaki, she said that she wanted me to call her with her real name ...... I called her real name for the first time, Nakagawa. Afterwards, of course, I was embarrassed, so the way I called her has returned to "Murasaki-san" but ... I was terribly embarrassed at that time. Moreover, she

was whispered to me in my ear ...

"The basic character of Nakagawa Murasaki is solid. She has a stoic artisan temperament that keeps striving to her satisfaction without failing to spare any effort in regard to do what she has decided. Trusted greatly by close friends; although sometimes troublesome but mostly very good."

"Wow, that's fairly accurate!"

I raised my voice in spite of me. Murasaki grew up well and could get along well with people with the same age; she has great artistic talent and her efforts to improve her talent are also great.

"Well ... ... Is that right?"

Murasaki is embarrassed, but she seems to be feeling a little happy.

"Shall I continue?"

The fortuneteller student gave me a bad stare.

"Oh, I'm sorry ..."

The fortune teller clears her throat and reads the rest.

"Well, it is a continuation of basic character. There are places where she hides her true self. Her original character is serious and prudent; her guard is hard for people of the opposite sex and because she hides her behavior, it often causes misunderstandings."

Are you hiding your real self? ..... You are really serious and on guard from men?

..... I instantly remember what Nagase said before; "She is not really accustomed to be around men" ... ... It is consistent with this fortunetelling result....

When she is with me she acts as if she is easygoing around men. Is Murasaki is really someone who is afraid of men, a pure woman?

"What .....!?"

Murasaki is puzzled by the fortune telling result.

"No, that's not accurate .... I'm no hiding my inner self ... Such a thing ... I

always live honestly with myself!? Ne, Kashiwada!"

In a panic with her denials, she turns to me.

"Well ... what do you mean ...?"

I look at Murasaki doubtfully.

If this fortunetelling result and Nagase's words are true ..... even with today's small devilish behavior, she is trying very hard to go against her nature. Although she is not accustomed around men, she pretends to act as if she is accustomed... ... ... I hope her efforts bear fruit!

"On your love affair ... You have a genius talent that attracts the opposite sex, a small devilish charm that can be appreciated by both sexes. Your natural charm I was born, even if you are not conscious about it, will be appreciated and like by men."

"That's it!"

I affirmed it. To be able to express Murasaki's personality properly, this is really fortunetelling ... I will never look down on free fortunetelling from the net......

"Well ... - Well, is that so ...?"

To this result, Murasaki was accepting it and was happy.

"Well, then at the end ....."

Then a fortuneteller student talked again. Suddenly, I heard a ring. It is a different sound from my ringtone.

Murasaki took out a smart phone from her pocket. Apparently, it was her smart phone that seems to be ringing.

"Ah...."

She looks at the screen and is having an awkward look. Because the phone continues to ring, it may be an incoming call.

"Is it a call? ... Do you need to go out? Are you OK?"

Murasaki sighs lightly,

"Sorry, I will be back in a bit."

She went out into the corridor so she could not annoy anyone in the classroom.

I don't like to listen to the result of fortune telling alone, I thought, "Sorry, thank you!"

I thanked the fortuneteller and decided to follow Murasaki and left the classroom. It seems there was something in the end yet ... Ah, probably it's the compatibility. I am a little worried about my compatibility with Murasaki, but I can't bear to hear it in that awkward atmosphere....

The fortuneteller student was watching me with half-closed eyes as she said, "Thank you" in a low voice.

"What's wrong?"

When I got out in the corridor, I heard a voice calling Murasaki. From the conversation, I found out that it was Ms. Nagase Shino, who is a seller and her friend at her doujinshi circle.

Why didn't want to answer the call from Nagase?

"Yeah ... ... Of course, I'm doing work! It's natural, I am not that stupid ... Huh ... Shino is worrying ~"

...... While listening to her words, I grasped the situation somewhat.

Apparently, Nagase seems to be worried about Murasaki not properly doing the manuscripts and has phoned her. That's amazing; she cares a lot about Murasaki-san ...

..... I mean Murasaki, what is it all about?! That surprised me!

Is Nagase correct in worrying about the documents? Was it really okay for you to come here?

Well, you are not doing the manuscripts since you are here in the cultural festival. When it comes down to various things, you seem to have different priorities, but let's not say anything about it....

"Coffee Shop ~! Get your cup here!?"

"!?"

The moment I was thinking, a student suddenly came out of a classroom and loudly invited us to a coffee shop.

'Hey ----!'

From the smart phone, Nagase's shouting voice can be heard.

"No, that's not the case ... it's from my TV or something!"

"Haunted house on the second floor! How about it, young couple!?"

Even the students holding Haunted House signs misunderstood us for a couple and solicited loudly.

"You have gone to the cultural festival! What on earth are you thinking?! It is yourself who will be in trouble later! Think of your income! "

"Well, wait! Shino ......! I was wrong! I am sorry! Do not say such a thing ..."

Murasaki is desperately apologizing with a pale face, but eventually takes the smart phone away from her ear and looks at it.

11 .....11

Apparently, Nagase seems to have hung up.

"Um, are you OK?"

I ask her.

"I have to go later ... ...."

Murasaki muttered with a sad feeling.

No, why do the manuscript later...?

"Well ..... say, Shino is always spoiling me! She always pampers me in the end! So probably for this time as well ... so it's probably okay ... probably ... ... I want to believe so ..."

Murasaki has her voice getting smaller and smaller.

"Is it really okay ... ... Are you going home ...?"

I became uneasy and asked her.

"No ... my purpose today is to see Mr. Kashiwada and Momo's class play! I can never return until I see it! ...... After I watch the play, I will go to Shino's house at high speed and apologize! "

"No, you should finish the manuscript rather than apologize!"

"I will do my best for the manuscript! The one that is liked by Shino is the problem! Ahhh ..... It's impossible for me to take on the barely ballet ...!"

Murasaki appealed with a pale face. Well, that kind of manuscript is it?

"By the way, Mr. Kashiwada, how much free time do you have?"

"Oh, our play starts at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and we have to be prepare, so one hour before that, we have to go to our classroom for that."

I look at my phone's watch. It is now 12:15. It is forty-five minutes before going back......

"Okay, then is it a good time for you and me to have lunch?"

"Oh, is it OK?"

Thanks to Murasaki, we decided to have lunch at a coffee shop.

A bit before the play ... I feel a sense of dread.

Today there are various things that occupied me until now ... ... I am now waiting for the big work.

No, not being the protagonist of the class play.

Naturally it must also be successful ... ... But there is something I must do that is more difficult and I doubt that I can succeed.

It is to have Hasegawa and Yamamoto-san meet up. If I can do that ... things may be settled.

I have asked them to meet me after the play, so time for me is going over slowly ...

```
"... ... Kashiwada?"
  I was surprised by someone calling me.
  Murasaki was sitting on the opposite side of the table is looking at my face
while eating lunch.
  "Sorry, I'm ... worried ...."
  "Are you okay ...?.? You seem to look pale ..."
  I wonder if my complexion is getting worse with my tension ....
  Even now I am with Murasaki, but I will let her worry.
  "Are you getting nervous just before the play?"
  "... ... Eh ?? Uh, well ... that's one thing."
  Well, if you look at my current situation, I think so.
  "... Somehow, you seem to be worried about other things ... aren't you?
  "What!"
 She laughs at me.
  Murasaki, you have insanely sharp intuition ...
  No, yesterday, Koigasaki also noticed my depression, am I too obvious?
Miserable me....
  "Wow ... ... really, you're sharp ... ..."
  I give up hiding and admit it while scratching my head.
  "The worry is ... such things that you can't talk about ...?"
  "Err ... um, yeah, um ... ..."
  Well, the story is confusing and I can't say much about the circumstances of
another person's family, so it is too bad that I can't share it to just anyone ....
  Murasaki laughed at me when I was lost in my thoughts.
```

"Because you just can't talk about it to anyone."

"Sorry, I ....."

I apologized on reflex.

"No, do not apologize."

She gives me a gentle smile.

"If there is anything I can do  $\dots$  ... Please come and see me anytime J"

Such a gentle smile and gentle words ... ... My heart that was upset was saved for a long time.

## **Chapter 5**

After we finished eating lunch, it was time that I had to go back to the classroom to prepare for the play, so I broke up with Murasaki.

"Please do your best ♪ Because I'm supporting you from the audience seats"
"Yes, thank you!"

I went to the classroom to prepare and change into costume.

After noticing me, Koigasaki with a cosmetic pouch, came to me.

Is she going to make me into the ugly Snow White Again?

"Hey, I'll do your make-up so please sit down."

I silently seated in a chair, I closed my eyes and waited for Koigasaki. The feel of the makeup brush is ticklish. It seems that she is doing it carefully today.

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"You ...."
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I had a lot of things I wanted to ask Koigasaki. Are you doing well with Suzuki? Why did not you tell me about anything yesterday? When are you going to confess?

"What?"

But now that I am in front of Koigasaki ... ... I was scared and could not ask anything.

Even now I'm getting nervous because of the big job I have to do after the play. She may not have heard of my plans. Finish the play, clear the problems of Hasegawa and Yamamoto safely – I think as I try to calm my mind.

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"No, no ... nothing."
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"Ha?"

Koigasaki, finished my makeup then stands up while she bringing the cosmetic tools.

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"..... Then do your best, right?"
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"Ah ... ok!"

I answered powerfully to words of encouragement from Koigasaki.

Koigasaki soon went back to the work with the props.

"Oh ... ... Kashiwada?"

"Wow! You look like a different person!"

A girl classmate who sat near Kiritani was calling me out while looking at my face.

"eh.....?"

What is this ... my classmates' reaction was different from the reactions yesterday. Yesterday, they were laughing the moment they saw my face ... ....

"What kind of face do I have?"

A girl classmate nearby lent me a mirror.

"Oh ... ...!"

I was astonished to see my face in the mirror. My face was made totally different from the make-up I had on yesterday.

"Kashiwada, it suits you surprisingly! From afar, you look like a normal woman!"

Sasagawa is surprised to see my face.

Yes, today I look like a woman ... I was thoroughly surprised. Koigasaki did an incredible normal make-up to make me pretty and not funny. No matter how many times I look at the mirror, I can't believe that this is my face.

I do not know why Koigasaki did the make-up this way today. Is it just a whim or ... ?

"... Oh, Kashiwada-kun ....."

While moving from the classroom to the gymnasium, I was able to speak to Hasegawa.

Because we broke up a little awkwardly yesterday, I was relieved that I can still talk to Hasegawa.

She is surprised to see my face. Probably because my make-up has changed a lot since yesterday.

By the way, yesterday, Hasegawa laughed at my make-up. Today's decent makeup ... ... what will Hasegawa say? Should I have repeated the funny make-up to make her laugh?

"It's amazing ... you changed so much after you put on make-up ...."

Hasegawa looks at my face with a feeling of admiration.

"Oh, today I got a nice girl make-up girl ... ... Was yesterday's make-up better?"

I ask Hasegawa.

"... Well, yesterday's makeup was also very good, but ... I think today's makeup is OK as well."

As Hasegawa said after a close look at my face. I was feeling a little while being scrutinized by Hasegawa, but I was relieved to know that Hasegawa has approved it.

Eventually the play began.

My turn will come soon.

When I looked at the audience, I was able to see Murasaki and Mr. Yamamoto, as well as Sonoda.

As I did yesterday, I had a bad performance, but I did not make any mistake and the play went on smoothly.

Like today, everyone thought that it would be possible to finish the play safely without any hitch.

At final scene of the play, it was the entrance of Hasegawa acting as the prince.

"What a beautiful lady ..."

My eyes are closed as I am dead, and I hear the lines of Hasegawa exactly like yesterday. "Prince, she is not breathing anymore" Next, I hear the dialogue of the student who plays a dwarf. The next line will be the Prince saying, "Oh what a shame...". 11 Is something wrong? I cannot hear the next line of Hasegawa ... Is she taking time to act? I thought so, but the time passed is already too long anyhow. Perhaps she forgot her lines ...? I don't think Hasegawa will forget her lines as she practiced and all. She was fine yesterday, I wonder what happened ....? I became worried and half-opened my eyes to take a look at the situation.

II II

Hasegawa in her Prince costume was rigid while looking at the someone in the audience near her.

The students playing the dwarfs around her are obviously upset by the situation.

Why is Hasegawa silent and standing still? When I look closely at her face ..... she is staring at one place while strengthening her expression.

.....!

Oh no, maybe Hasegawa ......

Found Mr. Yamamoto, her older brother, who is sitting in the audience!

It was totally unexpected that Hasegawa would be upset and it would interfere with her acting. I was the one who told Mr. Yamamoto to come to see the play. It is my responsibility that Hasegawa is now in this state. Oh, what shall I do .....

<sup>&</sup>quot;Hasegawa san ...?"

A girls student, one of the dwarfs who is near Hasegawa, calls Hasegawa with a little voice that was not heard by the audiencebut Hasegawa does not respond at all and remains rigid. It seems that the voice has not reached the ears of Hasegawa.

Since the play has stalled, the audience starts to fidget. Damn it ... what should I do ...?

..... Even if I changed a little bit of the play, it would be better than staying at this state ...?

I started to get up from my lying position.

"Gohoggehogeh ... ...."

I coughed out a piece of apple that I had put in my mouth beforehand.

Since I decided that Hasegawa is not in a state where she can act, though I have decided not to wait for the kiss from the prince, but wake up with my own accord.

Hasegawa and the other actors were also surprised to see the situation.

Yeah, I have to do something ..... Although I thought that I should cough out the apple on impulse, Ididn't think what to do next .... Well, these lines might be appropriate for this scene ....

"... A nice prince has arrived so I was revived ... ...."

When listening to my lines, the other actors were stunned for a moment but soon,

"...... Oh! Snow White has come alive!"

Sasagawa, also as a dwarf, added to my ad lib.

"..... Snow White is alive! The curse of poisoned apple has been lifted!"

Subsequently, the other student dwarfs also joins in the new plot twist.

Looking at the situation, Hasegawa was startled and woken up from her stiffness. She adds,

"..... Snow White, I am the Prince from the neighboring country, will you marry me?"

She said the dialogue, we are back to the script.

It was good ... ... Hasegawa finally returned to her senses and seems to have returned to the state where she can continue her performance.

After Hasegawa returned, the play somehow managed to progress smoothly. I thought what would happen then ... It was really good we managed somehow. Although the kissing scene between Snow White and the Prince, the best scene, was gone ... ....

Hasegawa was more upset by his older brother than I thought.

Because I called Mr. Yamamoto, I thought that Hasegawa would not be so upset ....

Eventually the play ended without further incident.

After the last bow, I and Hasegawa, together with the other actors, went backstage.

"I'm sorry"

As soon as I entered the stage sleeve waiting room, Hasegawa lowered her head towards the actors.

"Hasegawa-san ... what happened to you earlier?"

A girls student who acted as a dwarf seemed to be worried but doesn't look angry, asked Hasegawa. As I see it, my heart is getting hurting.

"..... That ... ... I forgot my line ...."

Hasegawa said the easy excuse which is probably not the truth.

"Hasegawa decided to be a substitute just on the previous day, so it can't be helped!"

I immediately added. I noticed that I was supporting Hasegawa with that followup.

"Well, that's right. Even if that was me, having substituted on the previous day and remembered perfectly for the first day, it doesn't mean that I will be fine on the next day. Although I'm sorry that the kissing scene is gone."

It was Sasagawa who was in sync with my words. Inside I am very grateful to her.

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"That's right!"
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"Yeah, Hasegawa, we don't mind ~"

The other girls also start encouraging Hasegawa. All my classmates were nice people .... Hasegawa slumped when she heard their words. Hasegawa is a perfectionist and her sense of responsibility is strong. I guess she is blaming herself more ....

Hasegawa spoke to me after we left the theater backstage.

"Kashiwada-kun ... thank you for the followup ... thanks to your support in the middle of the play, even up to the end ..."

Hasegawa thanked me while looking a bit awkward.

"Oh no ... ... Yesterday I followed you ... ...."

I did not want to say such a thing. I am the one who called Yamamoto-san today, I am sorry .... First of all I have to say so. Then somehow, I have to bring Mr. Yamamoto and Hasegawa together... .... No way, I saw that Hasegawa was upset just by looking at his brother. In this state, how will Hasegawa respond to the discussion? Should I have done these extra things?

"... Kashiwada-kun ... .. I heard that you wanted to talk to me after the play ... maybe ...."

Hasegawa spoke then ... someone came close to us.

"Ah...."

When I saw it, there was Mr. Yamamoto.

"... congratulations to the both of you, cheers for the play."

Mr. Yamamoto speaks to us with a smile like a little troubled.

Next moment ... ....

"eh!?"

Hasegawa did not say anything ... ... she ran away from the spot.

Before talking about anything, after seeing Mr. Yamamoto's appearance, she ran away ... It is obvious that Hasegawa doesn't want to talk with Yamamotosan.

If they talk, it may somehow ... ... I thought like that, maybe I am naive. This is exactly what happened the same as yesterday. They can't even talk ... ....

After all, can't I do anything ...?

No ... I can't leave it just as it is. It will not solve anything.

I decided ... I have to do something!

"Hasegawa!"

I called out her name and ran towards her.

Hasegawa ran quickly.

By the way, her running skills are outstanding.

My Snow White costume is difficult to run in because the skirt is long. It is likely that I will lose sight of Hasegawa if I fall down after stepping on the hem of the dress.

Still, I chased her desperately ... ... After leaving the gymnasium, running through the hallway ... ... When I entered the schoolhouse from the crossroads, I managed to catch up with her. I hold the arm of Hasegawa firmly.

"Haaaaaaa, haaa, haaaa ... ...."

We who are running around in full power while in our Snow White and Prince

costumes are conspicuous. Everyone who is walking around looks to us.

"I'm sorry ......for selfishly ... calling Yamamoto san ... ...."

First of all I apologized to Hasegawa. She does not try to look at my face with her face down.

"Kashiwada, that was you ... ...."

Hasegawa's voice was dark. She may be angry with me who called Yamamotosan without permission.

"Yeah ... ... I did something extra though I do not know the circumstances well, but ... I guess you and he should talk properly ... I think ..."

I noticed that I kept holding on to her arms so I released them in a hurry. After she ran away, I was afraid that she might go away again. I don't know what to do if she tried to escape. But Hasegawa leaned a little away from me and leaned against the wall as she slipped. Apparently she doesn't intend to escape, so I feel a little relieved.

"Speak properly ...?"

She sat down and repeated my words with a low voice.

"I do not want that, to that person."

Hasegawa talked with a strong tone without hesitation. She won't even look at me. Looking at her attitude, Hasegawa was thoroughly upset. Hasegawa may now be angry with me now.

But, I can't stop here.

"Hasegawa ... your older brother wants to talk to you, why not try just this once ..."

"It does not concern you, Kashiwada!"

Hasegawa looked straight at my face and said it with a strong tone.

I was scared by that line. I did not expect Hasegawa to say it. She is completely angry with me now. She is annoyed.

Even though I have been able to get along with her little by little ....

Hasegawa was a little surprised at what she said. However, she did not excuse herself and took her eyes away from me again.

"Anyway ... can you leave me alone?"

Hasegawa talked coldly without looking at my face.

I did not think that being rejected by my crush would be painful like this.

Even though Hasegawa hated her brother, I thought she still wants to get along with him. I did not expect that she felt like this ... actually witnessing her refusal is much more painful than I imagined. After all, it is hurtful if you are hated. Me, I do not want to be hated by Hasegawa. I can never endure being rejected by Hasegawa.

... ... If I apologize here, I may still be forgiven.

If I apologize, I may be forgiven. I'm sorry for doing something unnecessary. I was stupid as I was troubled by your family affair and I stuck my nose in but it backfired on me. I do not want to do this anymore, so I want you to forgive me.

But ... really is it okay?

Then I don't have to solve the relationship between these two. It will remain as it is. That's what I heard from Hasegawa.

I look at the face of Hasegawa who is avoiding my eyes.

I was wondering what kind of face she has now.

"....!"

I was surprised to see her expression.

Right now Hasegawa had a face that seemed about to cry.

I thought that she would be angry, disgusted and full of hatred, but such feelings did not come up to her expression at all.

In the eyes of Hasegawa, there is mere sadness in her mind.

She said that he is an unrelated person anymore. But is it really her true feeling? Then, what is this expression she has now?

I decided to test my resolution once again.

I guess I decided that yesterday. I managed to get along with him. With good results.

Besides, Hasegawa said "It does not concern Kashiwada-kun." I can't that. If I accept it, I might as well be a stranger to Hasegawa.

"It ... matters to me!"

In a trembling voice, I denied.

Hasegawa is surprised at my words and is watching me.

"Because ... Hasegawa is my friend, Hasegawa herself said so, didn't you?"

Friend ..... I was very happy when Hasegawa told me so. I remember vividly that time.

"Kashiwada Kun ..."

Hasegawa looked at me with a surprised face.

".....ッ!?"

At the next moment, I took courage and held the hands of Hasegawa.

"What ...!?"

Hasegawa made a big fuss and raised her voice, but I pulled the hand of Hasegawa and started walking.

Strangely, I did not get excited while holding the hands of my crush.

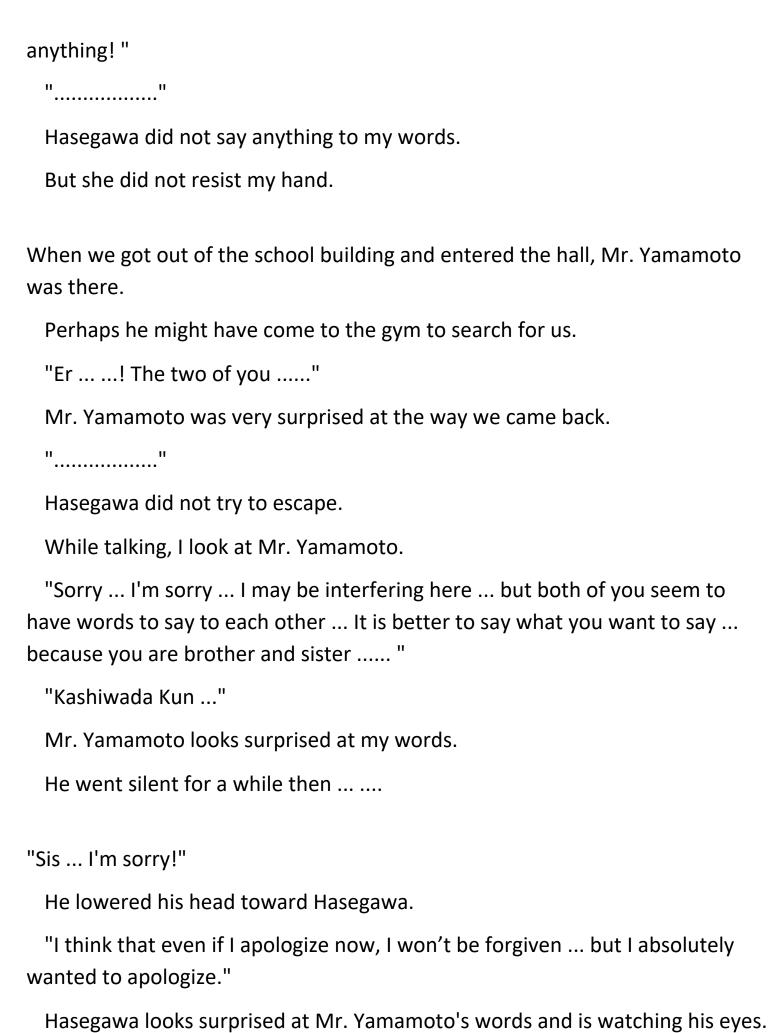
I have to take Hasegawa to Mr. Yamamoto.

By all means, they must talk to each other. I strongly thought so.

"Wait a minute... Kashiwada-kun!?"

Hasegawa resisted while being dragged by me.

"It can't be this way! Hasegawa seems to have something to say to his brother ... .... Even if you complain or blame your brother, you had better say it properly! Running away and not talking about anything .... it will not solve



"I hurt you deeply, I was wrong and I don't think I could not compensate you

enough even if I apologize. I deeply regret what I have done to you."

"...."

Hasegawa does not say anything to his brother's words of apology.

Mr. Yamamoto apologized seriously. I think that it may not be okay to understand the feeling a little.

"Well ... At that time ... ..."

Hasegawa said in a terribly calm tone.

"Even now ... I do not remember you well, I do not think of you."

It should have been a word to forgive my brother ... ... It was a cold taste that did not have any feelings at all.

"Midori ...."

Mr. Yamamoto sadly distorted his expression on the words of Hasegawa. He did seems to realize that we was not forgiven.

"So ... ... forget me already ... You are just painful for my existence, since it was mother who took care of me ...."

Hasegawa keeps on talking. Did she really think this way ... ....

"It is impossible for me to blame mother .... I won't do so! Even though I live apart, I have never forgotten about you even for a moment! I am not qualified to say this ... ... I wanted to talk to you like we used to ... long time ago. "

Mr. Yamamoto strongly denied the words of Hasegawa.

Hasegawa was surprised at his words, but she immediately looked down.

"... each other, those who do not concern about themselves ..."

She muttered in a small voice. Hasegawa is rejecting Mr. Yamamoto so far ...

Mr. Yamamoto stared at Hasegawa with a sad expression.

"..... You, you want to forget my existence .... I deeply hurt by you, my family also got scattered, I gave you a hard time, it's natural ..."

... ... ...

At that time ... ... It was a really small voice, but Hasegawa uttered something. Neither I nor Mr. Yamamoto heard it and did not miss it.

"Huh?"

When Yamamoto asked back, Hasegawa slowly raised his face and opened his mouth.

"Different ... ... It was my not my brother's fault that my family had fallen apart!"

Me and Mr. Yamamoto were surprised at the same time. We both looked at Hasegawa.

"Huh....."

"Midori .....?"

Hasegawa raised her face ... ... she was crying.

She opened his eyes and we were surprised ... ... there were tears in her eyes.

"What .... What's wrong? Midori ....."

"... ... My older brother ... ...."

Hasegawa started to talk while her tears are running.

"My brother ... ... left the university and went out of the house, my parents divorced ... and first of all ... ... I broke up with my brother ..."

Hasegawa keeps wiping away tears.

"....... I know why my older brother did so, even why our parents divorced ... It is not my brother 's fault. All of it ... ...was my fault ... "

To Hasegawa's words, I was shocked.

All are Hasegawa's fault ...? Hasegawa is now saying that ... ....?

"What ... are you saying ...?"

Yamamoto also seems to be shocked by the words of Hasegawa.

"I heard my father and mother fighting ... My father said that my brother got

this way was because of net games ... He didn't play net games during high school ... But why did he suddenly begin to do such things? My mother was not raising him properly? He is blaming mother ... .... "

"Ah, he is obviously saying what happened because I became addicted to net games and became a Hikikomori ... ....

"My brother got addicted to net games .... because of me ... It was I who began playing games earlier and my older brother was only doing it at the beginning because he is concerned about me... ... My older brother who was superior to me before became addicted to Otaku hobbies such as net games and anime. He was a serious person who put in all his efforts in everything ... ....

Hasegawa is a face I feel bad about.

"... It was me who destroyed your life. I ... ... I am qualified to be called your sister .... You better forget about me ....."

Hasegawa seemed to be unable to stop her tears, but even so she talked up to the end.

I became shocked because of her words.

Yamamoto became lost because of Hasegawa ... ...? She is not qualified to be his sister ... ...?

Did she always thought of it that way ...?

"No, you're wrong!"

Mr. Yamamoto strongly denied the words of Hasegawa.

"Midori ... ... Is that what you thought?"

Mr. Yamamoto shook the shoulders of Hasegawa as he was severely surprised.

"Midori ..... Listen carefully, I was an adult at that time, I became addicted to net games with my own free will and responsibility. All the fault is mine alone, not you. Absolutely not!"

Hasegawa has tears in her eyes but she doesn't look away from Mr.

"From now on, never blame yourself in such a way!"

"......"

Hasegawa kept tearing up, silently hearing the words of Mr. Yamamoto.

Hasegawa ... ... Up to now, she did not forgive herself because of what happened to her older brother ... ... she could not meet her older brother from the guilty feeling that she broke her brother's life.

Yamamoto ... ... She was watching his eyes.

Certainly, it was said that Mr. Yamamoto became an otaku is the influence of Hasegawa. It seems that Hasegawa thought that his brother became an otaku and started playing a net game because of her. She thought that her brother dropping out of college was her responsibility.

That's why she told Mr. Yamamoto, "I do not care about you anymore"

"No way, you felt responsible in that way ... ... Midori ... ... Maybe you have stopped all your otaku hobbies such as anime and games because of that ...?" In the words of Ms. Yamamoto, Hasegawa burst out crying.

Hasegawa disliking the otaku culture and Otakus ... I certainly understood why.

"If you felt that you were like that because you were like that ... ... It is about you who have a strong sense of responsibility. I felt responsible because of my Otaku hobbies, I thought ... ...."

Hasegawa is silent in the words of Ms. Yamamoto. Looking at that situation, Mr. Yamamoto seems to have got something. "........... After all, is that so ...?" Hasegawa silently nodded.

"My brother.... because I taught my older brother Otaku culture such as net games ... If I do not know such things, my brother would have never strayed from his path ...... I wish I had not taught my older brother ... No, from the beginning, I should have not gotten myself into such things .... I still regret that strongly ...."

"Midori ... ... that is also wrong."

Mr. Yamamoto once again denied the words of Hasegawa.

"I may have strayed from my path but I have not regretted anything. Even that I have become an Otaku due to the influence of Midori, I have enjoyed anime and net games by with you. I do not know ... At least I knew I had a lot of fun in those days.I did not think that being an Otaku itself is bad.Net games aren't bad but because I was weak ...... Anime, manga, net games, doujinshi ... ... Otaku culture itself is not bad, they are a wonderful culture.I'm not in a position to say such a thing ... but I just want you to know that. "

Mr. Yamamoto told Hasegawa strongly. It seemed to me that it was his heartfelt words.

11 .....11

Hasegawa did not say anything; she was just staring at her older brother.

She, like me, seemed to be moved by Yamamoto's words.

Hasegawa was silent for a while, but then slowly opened her lips.

"... Yes ... Onii-san ... Even now, I love otaku culture ...."

Hasegawa had a gentle smile as if she now sees everything.

"eh.....?"

In that meaningful remark by Hasegawa, Mr. Yamamoto acted strangely.

"My older brother's blog was ... ... "Invasion! Mars-chan ... ... "?

"Why does Midori ... ...!?"

Mr. Yamamoto is very surprised by Hasegawa's remarks. I also can't understand Hasegawa's remarks well, I was confused. "Invasion! Mars – chan" ...... It is a late-night anime about a beautiful Martian's girl named Mars who is set to invade the earth. It was airing until a while ago.

On the day of fireworks display ...... Mars's picture was in the cover of the box of pizza we ordered and I recall that Hasegawa's say the character's name of "Mars chan" the moment she saw the pizza box. I was surprised that, "Why does Hasegawa know this late-night anime!?" At the same time, I thought that "Hasegawa is a hidden otaku ..."!

After all, why does Hasegawa, who is not an otaku, know about Mars is still a mystery ... ....

"On his blog, he puts in his comments about the anime every week."

"eh.....!?"

blog.....? Mr. Yamamoto was writing a blog? I did not know it at all ....

In other words, when I collected my thoughts ... Yamamoto wrote comments about "Invasion Mars" in his blog. Because Hasegawa was also watching the show, she knew about the character Mars and has recognized her picture on the pizza box ... and so on. Is Hasegawa checking on Mr. Yamamoto's blog ...?

"Midori ... ... Are you following my blog!?"

Mr. Yamamoto himself was also surprised as I did, asking Hasegawa.

"Since I was in elementary school ... ... my brother's blog's address has not changed,"

In contrast to Mr. Yamamoto who is upset, Hasegawa answered the question with a calm situation.

"Well, that's right ..... That blog, you still follow it ......"

Mr. Yamamoto seems to be surprised by the words of Hasegawa.

Hasegawa and her brother's relationship has cracked. Before, they have a good relationship but now they live separately and their relationship has suffered. However, Hasegawa is still watching over Yamamoto through his blog: After all, she still cares about her brother who she misunderstood then.

Just as I though, they were hoping to reach each other's feelings.

The guilty feeling when they hurt each other ... it may have been deepened after a long time.

But, as they were able to speak to each other today, they seemed to reconcile.

Then, the school broadcast informed us that it is the end of the 2nd day of cultural festival.

The curtains of the Culture Festival have come to a close ....

## **Chapter 6**

Me and Hasegawa sent off Mr. Yamamoto to the entrance.

"Well, Midori ... I will contact you again."

In the words of Ms. Yamamoto, Hasegawa silently nodded.

".... Onii-san ......"

Hasegawa called Mr. Yamamoto with a nervous look.

"... ...you coming to the cultural festival ... really, I was happy ..."

"Midori ... ...."

Mr. Yamamoto was happy when he looked at Hasegawa.

Hasegawa was able to talk to him at last, it was really good ... ... I thought from my heart.

"Kashiwada-kun ... ... how can I thank you for today, thank you so much ..."

Mr. Yamamoto thanked me.

"No, thank you for visiting us ....."

I and Hasegawa sent off Mr. Yamamoto who went home.

Hasegawa was looking at Mr. Yamamoto's back ... ... with very gentle eyes.

When we got back to the gym, the cleanup after the play was over.

"I did not participate in tidying up ... ... I did bad things ..."

Hasegawa unhappily muttered while looking at the stage in the gymnasium where everyone has disappeared together with the props used in the play; the place was cleaned up well.

"Originally, we neither helped set up the props so it seemed that they finished cleaning up without having to wait for us." We did not help in the preparation so I think that we weren't needed for the cleanup.

We decided to return to the classroom for now.

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"Let's hurry."
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Hasegawa says to me as if nothing had happened.

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"Oh, OK."
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Although I was a little confused about the change in Hasegawa, I returned to the classroom quickly with her.

At the moment we entered the classroom, I felt like we got some attention from the class. Koigasaki also looked at Hasegawa for a moment when we arrived in the classroom.

Our class, having finished the play and tidied up, about half of our classmates are eating in the classroom. The other half went to their club activities and other things.

The props used in the play were gathered at the end of the classroom. By the way, we were told that in the later camp fire, the small burnable props will be burned. I'm sure that they are keeping the items to be burned in one place.

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"You ... you and Hasegawa went missing!"
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When I returned to my seat, Kiritani cried.

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"Oh ... no ... ...."
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I do not know what to answer, I don't want to get caught.

"It was rumored in class, something about the two leading characters! ....."

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"Are you serious.....!?"
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So that's why the moment I came back to the classroom with Hasegawa, we got a lot of attention?

"What, did you finally tell her!?"

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"Chi, what!"
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"Why ... I thought you would ask during the late night festival"

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"What ... What ?!"
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I have doubts about Kiritani's remarks.

"... You know, during the school's late night festival, it's confession time for

a lot of students; it's not officially so, but the students are doing it on their own ... every year It seems to be a tradition. "

"There is such a thing ... ... I did not know ..."

Confession time at the late night festival ... ... there was such a youthful event in our high school.

"I thought that for the late night festival there is only folk dancing around the campfire ..."

The main part of the late night festival is folk dance and camp fire. Folk dance is a standard one where men and women dance in turns with other men and women. I saw situations where boys call out to the girls they want to dance together in a romantic atmosphere... like in a GALGE.

"After the folk dance, the campfire begins and it will be a free time, and that's the time for someone who wants to confess to search for their partner and tells her."

"Well, seriously ....."

Wow ... ... How does he know of such an event?

There are other students around, so it is perfectly a spectacle.

To confess while being enthralled at the atmosphere of the late night cultural festival.... only a courageous bastard will actually do it. I definitely will not imitate that.

"it's time to move to the schoolyard soon, please prepare the materials to be burned."

At the teacher 's words, the students brought as much materials as they can carry and begin moving to the schoolyard. "OK! I will change clothes first."

I was talking to Kiritani while removing my make - up and the Snow White costume; it was nearly time to start the late night festival.

"You should stay as you are, everyone seems to want to attend the festival at the cultural festival later."

"No, no no ... ... I do not want to dance the folk dance with the girls in this

costume ..."

I may be targeted because of that ....

I asked Kiritani to go to the schoolyard first then I changed to my uniform in the classroom when nobody was left.

After having finished changing clothes, I washed my face and removed my makeup before I went out to the schoolyard, and the students were throwing in the props used at the cultural festival to the turret assembled at the center of the schoolyard. When all the material was thrown in, the students surrounded the tower and made a big double loop. The girls are inside the loop and the boys are outside; the boys move around. I hurriedly searched for the place where my class was, and I went into my own place in the ring.

As the sky is still bright, the tower will not be ignited. It is supposed to be ignited after dancing for about an hour and after the sun sets.

Soon the music started and the folk dance began.

I practiced the folk dance a couple of times, but it is not something I'm used to doing with girls. We talked with our partners while dancing.

"You changed your clothes, Kashiwada .... It would have been fun if you stayed in that costume."

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A girl who was dancing with me spoke to me and I reply while being embarrassed. I was surprised because it was a girl who hardly talked to me before.

... If I haven't done the play, I would not have been able to speak to the girls. Thanks to doing the protagonist in the play (and moreover in a dress), it was easy for me to speak to men and women more than before ... ... I feel it. It seemed worthwhile to do Snow White in the cultural festival. ... Well, it's only during the cultural festival, so it will be over soon ...

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"Ah....."

"Oh ....."
```

It became my turn to dance with Koigasaki.

For me, Koigasaki is the only girl in class who I can talk with easily ... ... but why ... why is it somewhat embarrassing for us to hold hands and dance?

"..... How was it? Did it work? What happened ..."

Suddenly, I was questioned by Koigasaki. Of course the question is about ... the matter between Hasegawa and Yamamoto that I consulted with her yesterday.

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"Oh .... It went well ..."
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It worked ... I think that it was a good result.

I just brought together two people, I didn't do anything else ....

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"... Well you well, I will hear it in detail next time ...."
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...and Suzuki? I was about to ask ... ... the music changed and it was time to change partners. Oh, I could not hear about the progress between Suzuki and Koigasaki ....

After a while passed ... ....

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"Ah....."
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"... well ...."

Finally, it was Hasegawa's turn to be my partner. She also changed from the Prince costume to her uniform. She says hello to me gently.

While puzzled, I hold the hands of Hasegawa.

The moment I touched the hands of Hasegawa, my heart started beating wildly. I held Hasegawa's hands earlier, but I was desperate at that time and I didn't think about it. It was different then.

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"...."
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There were lots of things I wanted to say, but I was nervous.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Oh, how about you ...."

<sup>&</sup>quot;Kashiwada Kun ..."

<sup>&</sup>quot;eh.....!?"

Hasegawa talked first, I was surprised.

"A little while ago ...... I showed an embarrassing side of me ... I'm sorry."

"No, no, such a thing ..."

Looking at Hasegawa, she was a little red in the face. She is trying not to look at my face.

I guess ... she's embarrassed because I saw her crying ....

Because she looks calm all the time ..... I thought she was embarrassed as I saw her in such a state.

Then the dance time with Hasegawa ended. We were silent.

I wanted to dance with Hasegawa more ... ....

No, more than that ... I regret that due to my nervousness, I could not say anything fancy.

Eventually the folk dance was over. The sun is just setting.

Finally, in order to start the campfire, the oar in the schoolyard was ignited. This campfire seems to be the main event of the late night festival. A fireball suspended on a pulley comes flying above the wire drawn from the rooftop to the turret. Arriving at the tower, it raises the sound and flares up vigorously. The students surrounding the tower gave were deeply moved.

Under the completely darkened sky, the flames are gaining momentum and burning red. The students broke up moved to different places where they can watch the bonfire together. People who want to leave are allowed to go home.

..... Suddenly, I remembered the words of Kiritani.

Right now ... is this the event called "confession time"?

"Kashiwada - What will you do now?"

Kiritani who is near me, starts to tease me.

"I ... I won't tell you!"

But I thought of something.

If I do not confess to Hasegawa ... ... others might confess to Hasegawa

instead!

Even though Hasegawa has many fans, when she played the role of the Prince in our play at the cultural festival, she stood out and I predict that her fans have increased.

Okay, what if Hasegawa were to be confessed to by others .... I don't want to think about it.

"... Ah, Kashiwada, where are you going?"

When I tried got up to move from the place, Kiritani asked me.

'I ... I'm going to look for someone!'

"Ohhh... do your best!"

Kiritani sent me out with a grin.

This guy absolutely misunderstood that I will confess to Hasegawa ... .... Even though I just want to find her and keep an eye on her, so that Hasegawa will not be confessed to by other men.

Hasegawa is in the same class so she should be nearby, but I can't find her easily. Damn, she may have already been called by another boys and may have been brought to some place for a confession ....

"Ah, Kashiwada!"

While I was searching for Hasegawa and running around, I came across an unexpected character.

"Sakurai-san ... ...."

It seems that she was also walking with a quick pace.

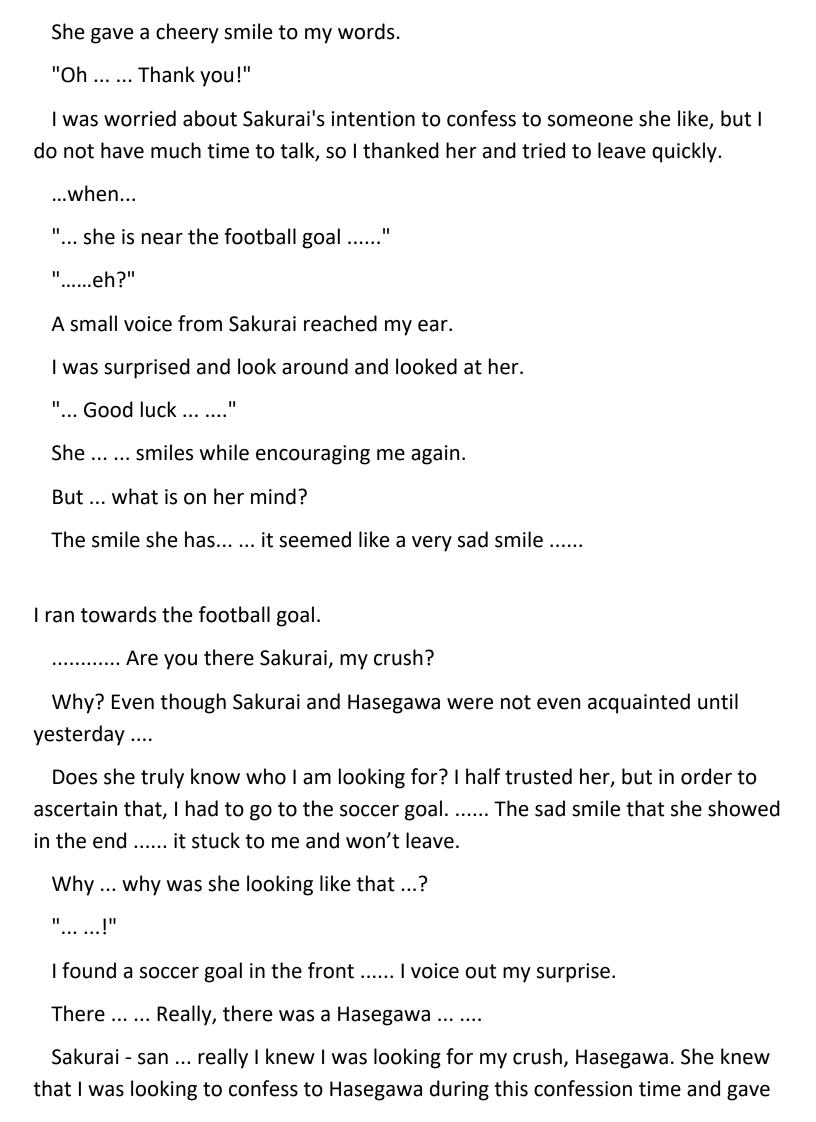
... ... Maybe, she is also looking for someone? Is she also searching for her crush to confess to?

"...Oh Kashiwada ... ... I'm out of breath ... Are you looking for someone ...?

Sakurai asked me as if she was a little upset.

"Oh ......! Ah ... ... Yeah, well ... ...."

"... Oh, that's right ... ... but please do your best!"



me the location of Hasegawa. How did she ...? Did Koigasaki tell her ...? No, I am certain she absolutely will not tell just anybody. So then, how ...? ..... No, more than that, the situation in front of me is more important! Because ... ... Hasegawa who standing beside the soccer goal is ... with a group of boys. "Hasegawa!" While I called her name, I ran to Hasegawa. "... ... Kashiwada-kun?" Hasegawa is surprised to see me. "....." The boys looked at me and clicked their tongues. "Well ... I do not know if you can see the situation? Now I am talking with Hasegawa, can you leave us alone?" The boys told me off. Perhaps ... ... did you just confess ...? Wow, I completely interfered ... .... no wonder he is frustrated with me. However ... "My bad but ... well ... I have something urgent to tell Hasegawa! I'm sorry, but ... can you leave us!?" With a shivering voice, I asked the boys. I know I am disturbing them with my self-centered request. But ..... I can't concede here. I can't let Hasegawa be taken by another man. Even if I would have to be the lowest of the low! "Haa.....!! What are you saying ....." A boy who did not know me was surprised and gave me an angry look. "..... Chi ..... ah ok, we'll leave you alone."

After that, the students turned their backs to us and left the place.

To the unknown student: I am sorry to interrupt your confession ... but I won't give up. Please understand my love ...

"Well, Kashiwada-kun ...... You ran so much just to see me ... what was that urgent thing you wanted to tell me?" Hasegawa looks at me with an anxious face.

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"Ah ... um ...."
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She is patiently waiting for my answer. Even though I said "urgent" before, of course it was not true for Hasegawa's case. I just used it to mislead the other students. Suddenly, In my eyes ... I saw a familiar figure.

In front of us, several meters away.

Many students are lighted by the light coming from the campfire ... ....

I could see Koigasaki is with Suzuki.

It seems that they are talking about something ... ... Of course, I can't hear anything as we are far apart. Is Koigasaki confessing ...?

She took this great opportunity to confess.

Koigasaki and Suzuki's figures are shrinking in the distance, looks like they are going to the sound stage section where they performed on and where they spoke about Otaku topics ... this is confession time. I think the setting and timing is very well done.

Besides, it's like a youthful romantic situation straight out of a manga: a girl confessing in a campfire setting... I think that Koigasaki really loves him.

After all, she will finally confess to Suzuki ... ...

"..... Kun? Kashiwada-kun?"

".....eh!?"

Called by Hasegawa, I am surprised.

Yappari ..... I was totally distracted by the figures of Koigasaki and Suzuki, I forgot my situation .....

"Oops, I was distracted ..."

What am I thinking?! She is doing his best for him, isn't it nice? Why be upset with this? The situation in front of me is more important now.

I diverted my eyes from Koigasaki and Suzuki and I draw out the full power of my brain.

At the late night festival ... Koigasaki is confessing .... Now, I am with Hasegawa ... ... I will forget ... ....

"But ... I was just fine .... I also had a story I want to tell Kashiwada ..... I was just looking for you ... Before that I told the boy that I'm sorry but ... "

"eh....!?"

I was shocked by Hasegawa's remarks.

Hasegawa, to me, a story ...!

At this campfire 's confession time ...!

I do not expect it even though I do like that ... is Hasegawa trying to confess me ... Wow!

"Well ... ... What about Kashiwada's story ...?"

"Well, no ... ... Hasegawa's story is better!"

I said to her.

"Oh ... but ... yours was urgent, right?"

"No, I'm OK! I want to hear the story of Hasegawa first!"

I thought that my way of deceiving is too bad. It is likely that Hasegawa is suspicious ... ....

"Ok ... .... If so ... ... then let me talk ahead."

Hasegawa seems to be convinced for a moment while making it strange, and starts talking.

"Kashiwada-kun ... .... Thank you so much for today."

Hasegawa said to me with a calm tone.

"Huh.....?"

"You called my older brother to the cultural festival ... and then you took me to my brother ... ...."

"Oh, well ... that ... ...."

While being slightly disappointed in the fact that it was not a confession ... ... she was happy with her thank you.

Until a while ago, I was surprised at her usual attitude, I did not mind .....

"I can't thank you enough ... I do not know .... I do not understand ... I have misunderstood because of the weakness of my own heart. Since I do not want to hurt, I can't contact my older brother ... ... Today Kashiwada sets up a place for me to talk with my older brother, I was able to talk with my older brother for the first time in a few years ... ... I was really happy."

"Hasegawa....."

"At first ... .. I was a nuisance and have a bad attitude ... I really apologize, but Kashiwada brought me to my brother, He did not give up on me ......"

She seriously watches me while filled with gratitude.

"We greatly appreciate you Kashiwada ... my brother and his sister consider you as ... an important friend."

" "

I got teary because of her words.

..... I can never accept her thanks.

Rather, it was just a rash action on my part that made me do it. I did it on my own will. Because I want to do it, I just did it.

Nevertheless ... she looks at my eyes now with sincere thanks.

Is there such a thing that makes me so glad ...?

"Well. Kashiwada-kun ... ...?"

Hasegawa said with a strained voice as I was stiffening on the spot with my eyes full of tears.

"Ah ... I'm sorry, I got soooo ... no ... I did not think that I was appreciated so

much I am glad"
Hasegawa floated a soft smile on my words.
" So, Kashiwada's story What is it?
"eh!?"
But at the next moment, I was greatly upset by the words of Hasegawa.
Oh, I completely forgot
"Er, um"
What should I do I forgot what I was going to talk about what a predicament I desperately run my brain at full power.
Wait a moment Now it is confession time
Even more, I feel that this is my opportunity
No no!Take it slowly! I decided that in my mind and calmed myself!
"Kashiwada-kun?"
Hasegawa tilts her head curiously to me who is silent.
•••••
That's it
Now, it is "confession time"
I There is another thing I have to tell Hasegawa
Besides my love There is something that I am hiding from her
To keep a secretly from my crush In truth I was disgusted. I feel like I'm not showing my real self
Hasegawa is thanking to me now, but if I say the truth what will happen? Will she still give a gentle smile to me just like before? Would it be possible that our relationship will be broken even though she just acknowledged me as a "friend"? Honestly, I feel scared.
And yet I want Hasegawa to recognize my true self
" I'm sorry, I hid it until now Hasegawa, there are things I want to say"

"Huh.....?"

Hasegawa is a little surprised and looks up at my face.

I took a light breath and settled my determination.

"Just like Yamamoto-san ... I am an Otaku...."

To my words, Hasegawa was surprised with his eyes wide open.

For a while, she stared at my face.

Her silence was painful. I wait for her answer.

".....Is that so."

Eventually, Hasegawa gave a short reply with no expression.

Her reaction ..... I got a fear anxiety.

Even after she reconciled with her older brother ... ... she still hates Otaku. Even though she used to love otaku culture in the past, given the various painful events that took place because of her involvement with otaku culture, her hate is natural. They had been tormenting her for a long time.

Previously she said "I am not good with Otakus." Even if she has reconciled with her older brother, that feeling may not change. If so .....

The relationship I built up with her can collapse easily .... It is not strange.

Hasegawa's reaction ... ... I was very afraid.

I can't look at her face.

Eventually Hasegawa started speaking slowly.

"..... I loved otaku culture before. When I was an elementary school student I loved otaku culture. Then I had an event where I felt I was betrayed by my older brother I. At that time, I thought could not forgive my brother but now, I think that I understand that was not is not about my brother betraying me."

..... Hasegawa probably refer to the "event where I felt betrayed" where she found Yamamoto's doujinshi. She was shocked then, but now I don't think she cares about that event too much .....

"So, I realized that the real cause I hated Otakus is not that ... because I was

an Otaku, I got my older brother involved and as a result my older brother went that path. It was because I was convinced that my life had gone insane because of this ... I ran away hating otaku culture ... I think the bad thing is net games and geek culture itself ... ... "

She felt great responsibility and at the same time she had been driven by remorse of self-esteem, as she was the one who introduced Otaku culture to her older brother.

"So ... ... to my older brother,"Otaku hobbies by itself is not bad, it is a wonderful culture".... Somehow, when my own brother affirmed my Otaku hobbies, I felt like I was saved ..... I was saved ... Actually, I knew ... Otaku Hobby itself is not evil."

She looked a bit like a refreshing look.

"So ... ... From now on I will not deny people who are Otakus, I will stop denying them because of my selfish reasons." She declared herself without any hesitation.

That is, that is ... ... Because she ceased to dislike Otakus, she doesn't mind being an Otaku ... Is it okay for me to think that it her the answer?

"First ... An Otaku is just one of those people's hobbies, so it's stupid of me to change my feelings for that person just because of that. I wonder ... .... "

Today's, my crush tells me a lot about her honest feelings more that she let on. I was glad for that.

"So ...."

Hasegawa looked straight at my eyes while looking a bit shy.

"Whether you're an Otaku or not, Kashiwada is an important person to me; strong and trustworthy ... an irreplaceable and valued person ... ... nothing has changed."

She said clearly, with a gentle smile.

— "An important irreplaceable person".

She certainly said so. She has told me so.

How happy I am for her words now.

If I could hear such words from her ... I think there is nothing wrong with what I have done so far.

She was smiling the most while I was looking at her.

I want to keep seeing this smile forever. I want to protect her happiness, this smile.

From all the painful and sad events that hit her ... ... I want to protect her.

"Kashiwada ... ... you ...?"

"Hasegawa ... ...."

I saw her eyes straight, thinking of silent me as a kyoton.

I do not know the technique of suppressing this emotion overflowing in myself now ....

The feeling of thinking that I love her is overflowing and it seemed to explode.

"| ....."

I moved my trembling lips ... ... I uttered the words.

"The matter about Hasegawa ....."

".....Huh?"

She opened her eyes wide open to my words.

"That ... ... not just as a classmate or as a friend ... as a single person, as a woman ... ... I like the Hasegawa ... ...."

All the time I spent with Hasegawa until now has run around my brain like a gigantic lantern.

On the day of the entrance ceremony, from that day on when I was strongly attracted to her beauty and kindness, my heart to Hasegawa has steadily expanded.

Even though at first I can only help you while hiding behind the scenes, I have been able to exchange words with you little by little ....

Now she told me ...that I am "an important, irreplaceable person".

That was a great pleasure for me.I had not thought of anything of such as a future.

I can no longer hold down my feelings.

"Kashiwada-kun ..."

She stared at me with a surprised expression.

The white hair of Hasegawa was shining red and glittering in the dark, receiving the color of the swaying flames from the campfire.

While looking at her face, I thought that Hasegawa is the most beautiful girl in the world.

Continues to Volume 8